



SPORTS
**BOYS HOOP
DOWNED IN FINAL**
PAGE B1



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COHASSET MARINER

Friday, March 18, 2016

Cohasset.WickedLocal.com

Vol. 38, No. 13 ■ \$2

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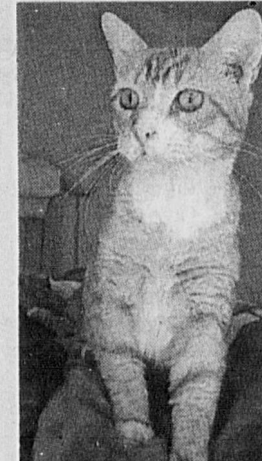
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CANDIDATES

COMING IN PRINT

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Time for town tree to leave

Iconic ash to come down soon

By Amanda C. Thompson
athompson@wickedlocal.com

The Department of Public Works isn't just throwing shade when it says the iconic ash tree on the Common has got to come down before summer.

"We're all sad; that's why we're here," said Andy Swanson, tree warden, at the formal shade tree hearing on Monday night, March 14th. "But the tree is

a risk, if not a hazard. You've got kids skating, people walking by... We don't want anyone to get hurt."

The tree was planted on the Common in the first half of the 19th century, abutting the natural glacial kettle hole that was transformed into the duck pond. That transformation took place around 1915, when the sidewalk went in. To accommodate it, the ash tree's root system was dug out.

In some ways, it's impressive the tree has lasted as long as it has between the sidewalk on one side, a

street on the other, and cars constantly exhaling toxins into its breathing air.

A handful of citizens gathered to see if one more summer could be wrung out of the tree before taking it down, but Swanson didn't want to take the risk. He explained to the sad gathering that the tree wasn't sick; it hadn't been neglected; it wasn't infested with insects. Like anything, it just got old.

"Everything comes to an end," said Swanson.



SEE TREE, A5
The tree warden says this ash tree on the common must come down. WICKED LOCAL PHOTO BY MARY FORD

SPECIAL REPORT: GUN OWNERSHIP

Leveling the field on gun licenses



Dan Knowles, an instructor at the Marshfield Rod & Gun Club offers pointers on shooting. WICKED LOCAL STAFF PHOTO / CHRIS BERNSTEIN

Gun owners back bill banning added requirements

By Erin Tiernan | etiernan@wickedlocal.com

Massachusetts is known for having some of the strictest gun laws in the country. And for the 355,000 residents licensed to carry firearms the rules and regulations to obtain these permits can vary depending on their zip code.

State law requires residents seeking to carry firearms to submit fingerprints for a background check, provide proof of completion of a gun safety course, and pay a \$100 fee to their local licensing authority—this authority is placed with the police chief. A fourth provision of Massachusetts gun law gives

SEE LAWS, B8

Current events affect gun application rates

By Amanda C. Thompson | athompson@wickedlocal.com

Guns. The subject itself can be explosive, to say nothing of what's in the chamber.

Cohasset Police Chief Bill Quigley said there's always an uptick in applications for gun permits in the aftermaths of any violent incident — mass shootings in San Bernardino and an Aurora, Colorado movie theater, or the attacks in Paris, for instance.

"People have a desire to protect themselves, and I have no problem with that — with somebody having

SEE RATES, B8

UPDATE

Meals, room taxes

Town Meeting voters to decide

By Amanda C. Thompson
athompson@wickedlocal.com

The board of selectmen hosted a discussion with the advisory committee on Tuesday, March 15th to discuss the proposed meals and rooms taxes, which have been placed on the Town Meeting warrant as two separate articles.

The meals tax would add a 0.75 percent excise tax on meals — such a small amount that the advisory board doesn't think the average diner will even notice it. On a \$100 check, that's only 75 cents extra. For your burger at Dooley's, it's pennies.

While most of the town's neighbors have approved a meals tax, this will be the proposal's fourth time on a Cohasset Town Meeting warrant. It seems that, in the past, the community hasn't have much of an appetite for the extra payment, no matter how small.

The advisory board pointed out that there are a limited number of ways to diversify Town revenue, since Cohasset has such a small commercial tax base, and a meals tax is one of them. The revenue, estimated to total around \$300,000, could help beef up accounts like the stabilization fund and OPEB trust.

The board added that, instead of taxing residents only, the tax would draw from both residents and guests to support the Town.

SEE MEETING, A5

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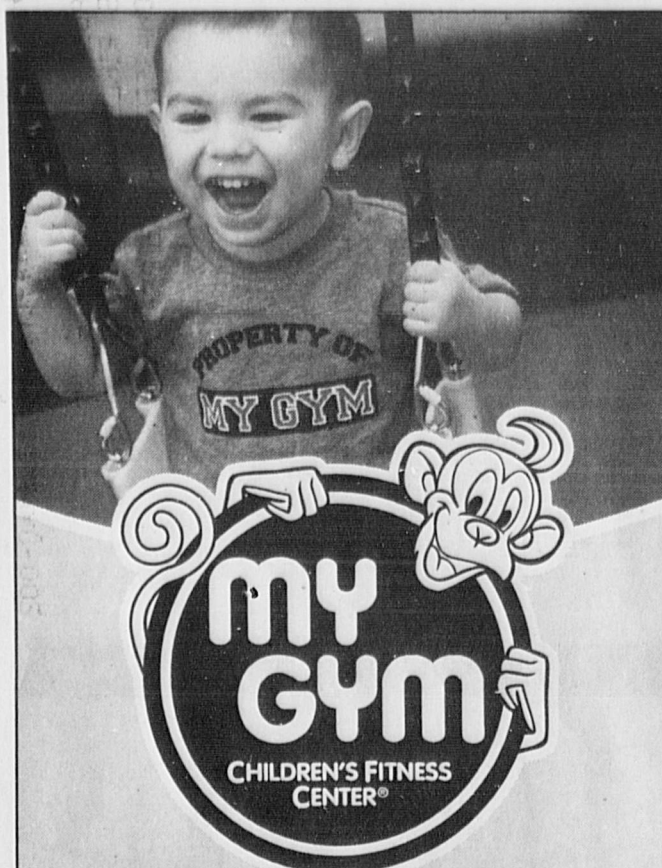
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PICTURE THIS

Mark A. Alves

Name: Mark A. Alves.

Occupation: IT Executive for a Property Management/Development Company.

Best day of your life: There are three equally best days of my life. My wedding day and the two days that my daughters were born.

Best (or worst) vacation: Worst – Disney World - August 2013 – Don't ask.

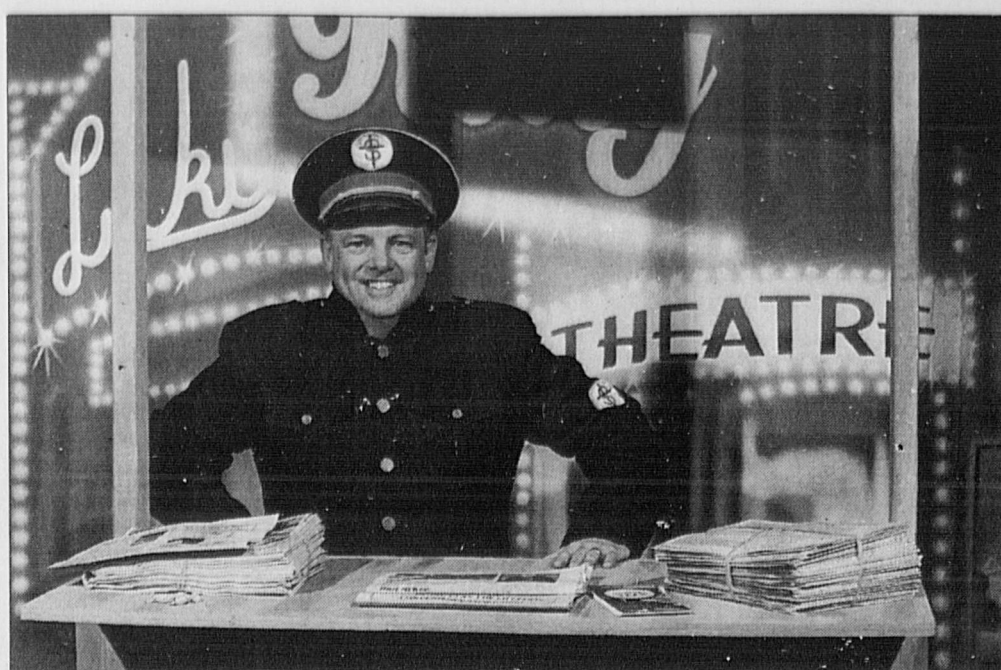
Favorite season: Fall.

Favorite holiday: Christmas.

Favorite snack: Reese's Peanut Butter Cups.

Best book: "Lord of the Rings Trilogy."

Best movie (or actor): Robert Downey Jr. (Sherlock Holmes).



The Mariner caught up with actor Mark Alves who is portraying Arvide Abernathy in the Cohasset Dramatic Club's "Guys and Dolls" on stage at Town Hall through March 26. For more, visit: cohassetdramaticclub.org. WICKED LOCAL PHOTO CHRIS BERNSTEIN

Best TV show: "Black List."

Best music, group, or artist: I love all music from classical to contemporary.

Pet peeve: People who are oblivious to others in a crowded public area.

Most embarrassing moment: Spelling Jihad wrong as an audience participant during "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" – this was supposed to be an easy one.

Goal: To retire in San Diego.

Person you'd most like to meet: President Obama.

Biggest worry: Donald Trump being elected president. (I may have to move to Canada.)

Best part of Cohasset: Without a doubt, the Cohasset Dramatic Club!

FINANCES

School budget is a squeeze

Selectmen sat down with the School Committee to talk budget on Tuesday, March 15th.

It's taken some administrative acrobatics to get there, but the schools have compacted their budget almost enough to fit within the dollar amount the Town has set aside for them.

Superintendent Barbara Cataldo said the new budget targets specific areas of improvement at each school. At Osgood, the district aims

to improve classroom support at the youngest grade levels and teach all students to become independent learners by emphasizing non-academic skills.

At Deer Hill, the goals are to reach all the different types of learners and balance class size as well as instructional styles.

At the middle/high school, the goal is to focus on the whole student, an objective that includes not only academics but extra-curriculars, sports,

and social and emotional wellbeing.

The total requested \$18,320,276 budget misses the mark by about one percent, creating a shortfall of \$246,574. The requested school budget is up \$815,276 from fiscal year 2016, but the Town Manager only recommended an increase of \$568,702.

The schools shaved almost \$200,000 off the budget by deferring certain requests, such as the addition of a Latin teacher,

a technical support specialist, and a transitional services education support professional at the high school.

These needs and others will come up in next year's budget discussions but are not considered necessary for the schools' operation in fiscal year 2017.

The School Committee held a public hearing and further budget discussions on Wednesday, March 16th. Pick up next week's issue of the Mariner for more details.

COHASSET ELDER AFFAIRS

Adult coloring classes daily

New location: Cohasset Elder Affairs is now located at Willcutt Commons, 91 Sohier St. All events and activities will be held in that location unless otherwise noted. The center offers tours for visitors.

Adult Coloring: 8 a.m. to noon, daily. This creative activity helps people de-stress from everyday pressures. By donation, the center has a supply of books with intricate patterns. Bring colored pens, pencils or crayons or use the one's provided. The center will also provide coffee.

A Matter of Balance: 1:30-3:30 p.m. March 16-May 4. Facilitated by the Norwell Visiting Nurse Association, this evidenced-based eight-week workshop is a program offering practical strategies

to reduce the fear of falling and increase activity levels in older adults. Program is grant-funded so free of charge, but class size is limited. Sign-up is required.

Hearing Screenings: 12:30-2:30 p.m. March 23. Mass Audiology will be at the center offering free hearing tests, hearing aid checkups and battery changes. Call to schedule an appointment.

Community Garden Club Workshop: 1:30 p.m. March 24. Work with the experts to create a spring arrangement to take home. Reservations required. Cost is \$3.

Brown Bag Lunch and Movie: March 28. "All Passion Spent." After a lifetime in the spotlight, Lady Slane (Wendy

Hiller), the 85-year-old wife of a recently deceased politician, is allowed to shed her public persona and retreat to a cottage in the Hampstead countryside. But rediscovering her identity is no easy task with meddlesome family members constantly questioning her propriety.

Boston Symphony Open Rehearsal: 8 a.m. March 31. Music by Beethoven and Mahler. Cost is \$10 for transportation. Tickets purchased separately at box office: \$18-\$30.

Lunch schedule and menu, week of March 22

Lunches are served at noon Tuesdays, Wednesdays and

Thursdays. Reservations required 24 hours in advance. Meals provided by local restaurants and Cohasset cooks. Cost: \$3.

Tuesday, March 22 lunch: Chef Johanna, Orzo ham pasta
Wednesday, March 23 lunch: Olympus Grille
Thursday March 24 lunch: Chef Mary Kay, Cheeseburger pie

Ongoing programs

Cohasset Café: Mondays, 9-11 a.m. Coffee, conversation and fresh baked treats. Cost: \$3.

Veterans services hours. Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1-4 p.m., Willcutt Commons, 91 Sohier St.

Dawn Eagle Woman Internationally Known Healer Visiting Duxbury

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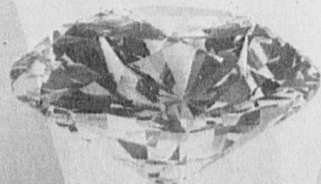
Thursday, March 31, 7-9 PM
\$25
"Sculpting Your Soul"

Sunday, April 10, 10 AM - 5 PM
\$125
"Possibility of a Gentler Life"

"Dawn is very gifted. Her insights and wisdom have made my life better and more satisfying for which I am grateful."
- Dave

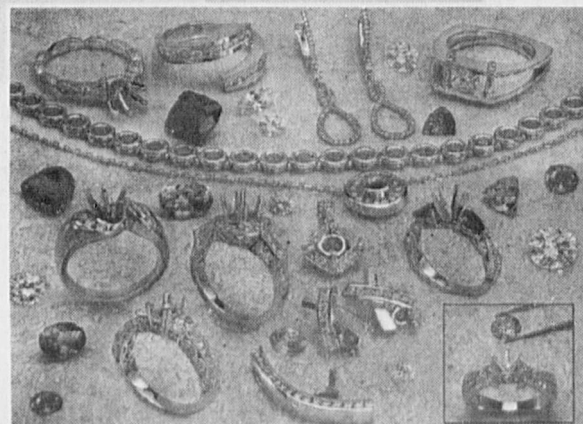
Both workshops taking place in Duxbury. Limited availability. One-On-One sessions with Dawn also available March 25 - April 11. To register or for more information call Brian White 307-745-3634.

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South Shore Tide Chart

COHASSET HARBOR (WHITE HEAD)

MAR. 2016		HIGH				LOW				SUNRISE	SUNSET
		AM	HGT.	PM	HGT.	AM	HGT.	PM	HGT.		
Thursday	17	7:08	9.2	7:54	8.2	12:40	0.8	1:26	0.3	6:50	6:52
Friday	18	8:14	9.0	8:57	8.3	1:44	0.9	2:31	0.4	6:49	6:53
Saturday	19	9:16	9.0	9:54	8.5	2:47	0.9	3:29	0.3	6:47	6:54
Sunday	20	10:11	9.1	10:42	8.7	3:44	0.7	4:19	0.2	6:45	6:56
Monday	21	10:58	9.2	11:24	8.9	4:33	0.5	5:02	0.2	6:43	6:57
Tuesday	22	11:40	9.3			5:17	0.3	5:41	0.1	6:42	6:58
Wednesday	23	12:01	9.1	12:19	9.2	5:57	0.1	6:18	0.1	6:40	6:59
Thursday	24	12:37	9.2	12:56	9.2	6:36	0.0	6:54	0.2	6:38	7:00

Please be aware that all tide charts are really just predictions and assume average weather conditions. Usually, onshore winds or low barometric pressure will produce higher tides than predicted and vice-versa.

35TH ANNUAL DUXBURY SPRING ANTIQUE SHOW

Saturday
April 2nd
10am - 5pm

Sunday
April 3rd
11am - 4pm



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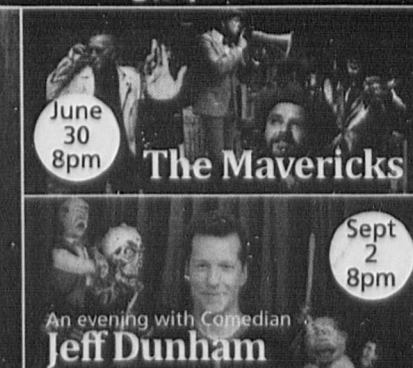
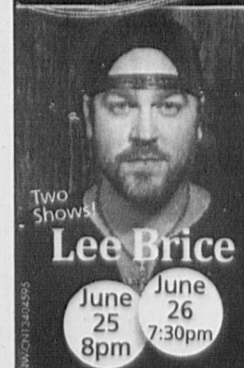
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Directions to Duxbury High School

130 St. George Street Duxbury MA 02332
Route 3 - Exit #11 - head east on Route 14

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UPDATE

Potential selectman race shaping up

By Amanda C. Thompson
athompson@wickedlocal.com

It's starting to look like there may be a race for seats on the board of selectmen at this year's Town Election. Two more candidates pulled nomination papers this week.

Nathan Redmann may be new to town, but he knows what's going on, thanks to his faithful attendance at not only selectmen's meetings, but also at School Committee and fiscal forecasting meetings.

While Redmann would be new to town government, he feels he would bring an important new voice into the conversation: the voice of parents of schoolchildren. This demographic is represented well on the School Committee, but not at all among the selectmen, which leaves the board with a critical gap in terms of understanding the population.

"We moved here so our children could graduate from CHS with a top-notch education," said Redmann. "We want to ensure they get that – and not just for my family, but for all of our families."

Russ Bonetti, current chairman of the Community Preservation Committee, also pulled nomination papers for a seat on the board of selectmen. Bonetti was not available to comment before press time – pick up next week's issue of the Mariner to read more.

Other contenders in the five-way selectmen's race are Steve Gaumer, current chairman of the board; Jack Keniley, former Capital Budget Committee chairman; and newcomer Heather Hintlian. They are competing for two open seats. Terms last for three years.

Two candidates pulled papers to run for spots on

the Recreation Commission. Molly Frame and Joseph Regan are both newcomers to the board and would, if elected, serve a five-year term.

Frame decided to run because of her two children, who are in kindergarten and second grade.

"I'm really passionate," said Frame. "An important part of our community is to have this awesome Rec department for them to have great experiences being a kid."

As awesome as Rec may be, Frame sees room for growth. "There are so many other programs they could do, and things they could do to improve facilities," said Frame. When Rec Commission Chairman Elizabeth Frazier saw Frame's passion and vision, she urged her friend to run for a seat.

Regan could not be reached for comment by press time – check back next week for more.

The School Committee will have two three-year seats available as well as a one-year, unexpired term to fill out.

Barbara Stefan, appointed to fill the unexpired term earlier this year, will be running for election to a full three-year term. Amanda Zani, a mother of two Osgood students, has her eye on the remaining year of the unexpired term. Current chairman Jeanne Astino plans to run for reelection.

On the Planning Board, Chairman Clark Brewer plans to run for reelection to another five-year term. Associate member Erik Potter was appointed last year to fill out an unexpired term and now plans to run for election – but he wants to keep the "associate" in front of his title.

On the Board of Health, Elizabeth Kirkpatrick invited Lynn Doney to run

"We moved here so our children could graduate from CHS with a top-notch education. We want to ensure they get that – and not just for my family, but for all of our families."

Nathan Redmann

for the seat that Kirkpatrick will be vacating this spring. Terms are three years long.

Water Commissioner John Steinmetz was appointed last year to fill an unexpired term and is now running for election to a three-year term.

Susan Sardina, member of the Housing Authority since 2006, will be running for reelection to another five-year term.

Three candidates have pulled papers to serve on the Library Trustees: Roger Lowe, Sarah Pease, and Elaine Breslow. Terms last for three years. There are four seats available.

Nomination papers for elected town positions have been available at the Town Clerk's office since Feb. 8th and will be available until March 24th. Nominees must be registered voters of the town. All papers must be submitted by March 28th.

Note that nominees are not running for office until papers are taken out and the board of registrars certifies signatures – and yes, that applies to those running for reelection, as well.

Annual Town Election is scheduled for May 14th.

—Follow Amanda on Twitter for updates: @MarinerAmandaT

POLICE BEAT

Newton woman faces OUI charge

By Mary Ford
mford@wickedlocal.com

OUI arrest

An officer on patrol around 12:56 a.m. on Sunday (March 13) saw a 1999 Subaru Legacy with a flat, right-front tire pass by. He turned around the stopped the Subaru near the train station.

The driver, Katherine L. Murphy, 32, of 78 Saint Mary's St., Newton, was exhibiting the signs and symptoms of intoxication and could not pass a series of field sobriety tests. Murphy was arrested and charged with operating under the influence of alcohol and operating to endanger. Police think she likely hit a curb that caused the flat tire.

Rape report

Police were called to South Shore Hospital on Friday (March 11) at 9:30 p.m. on a report of a woman who said she had been raped by an acquaintance at his home in Cohasset. Cohasset detectives, who interviewed the alleged victim, are investigating the alleged rape. Police did not provide any further information.

MVA

The 24-year-old Medfield man operating a small dump truck on Atlantic Avenue on Monday afternoon (March 7) around 1:15 p.m. told police he fell asleep at the wheel before driving off the road hitting a cement pylon before crashing into a utility pole. The driver was not injured; the truck was towed. The Medfield man was cited for failure to drive in marked lanes. He was headed north on Atlantic Avenue when he dozed off. National Grid had to replace the pole.

Service dog

A caller with a service dog in a Depot Court shop called police on Monday afternoon (March 7) when the shop owner did not want the dog in the store. An officer arrived and explained the law about service dogs. Under the Americans With Disabilities Act, service dogs are allowed in stores.

Dog issue

The Animal Control Officer and a police officer went to the Highland Court home to issue the homeowner a

\$35 dog citation because it was the second offense. Police had responded to a complaint from a resident who lives off Elm Street about the dog throwing itself up against the glass slider to get at her dog.

MVA

Police responded to a car accident on Chief Justice Cushing Highway (Route 3A) at 3:25 p.m. on Wednesday (March 9). A 2004 Ford SUV, operated by a 52-year-old Hingham man, pulled out of Hingham Lumber to head north on Route 3A in the path of a 2001 Chrysler sedan, operated by a 79-year-old Hull woman. There were no reported injuries but both vehicles were towed. The Hingham man was cited for failure to yield to oncoming traffic, police said.

Bike missing

A 49-year-old Cohasset woman hoping to go for a bike ride in the nice weather went to her shed only to find her \$800 blue Trek bicycle was gone. She reported the apparent theft to police on Wednesday afternoon (March 9). She thinks the bike may have been stolen when she was away Feb. 12-19. There was no physical evidence at the scene and no forced entry, police said.

MVA

Police responded to a car accident around 4:40 p.m. on Wednesday (March 9) at Chief Justice Cushing Highway at lower King Street. Police said a 2007 Pontiac Grand-Am, operated by an 18-year-old Hull woman, pulled out from King Street to turn left onto 3A into the path of a 2015 Hyundai sedan, operated by a 41-year-old Abington woman. There were no reported injuries and no tows. The 18-year-old was cited to failure to yield to oncoming traffic.

ATM biker

Police checked out a 34-year-old Scituate man with a camouflage backpack who had been seen riding his bicycle to several ATMs after receiving a report from a concerned caller on Wednesday (March 9). Police said he was having trouble with his ATM card and was trying it at different bank ATMs.

Seeking money

Police requested the

assistance of Hingham police after responding to a report of a 31-year-old Revere woman asking for money after knocking on the door of a Hull Street home at 10:45 p.m. on Wednesday (March 9).

Investigation revealed the woman was seeking money to get home to Revere. Hingham police gave her a ride to the bus stop on Station Street in downtown Hingham.

Deer struck

The Environmental Police were called for assistance following a deer-car accident on Thursday (March 10) off Atlantic Avenue. The injured deer had run too far into the marsh. The Environmental Police were able to reach the deer and put it down.

MV stop/tow

An officer on patrol observed a 1999 Lexus sedan at Fiori's gas station on Chief Justice Cushing Highway on Friday (March 11) around 1:44 p.m. that had a rejected inspection sticker. The officer, who followed the car, ran the plate that showed the insurance had been revoked due to cancellation of insurance. He pulled the Lexus over on Beechwood Street by Norman Todd Road. The 57-year-old driver from Randolph, who is working on a construction project in town, is being summonsed to court for operating with revoked registration, operating an uninsured motor vehicle and for an inspection sticker violation. The car was towed.

Peace restored

At the request of management police responded to the sports center off Crocker Lane for groups of rowdy parents during a soccer match. Police provided a presence and there were no problems. The call came in on Friday night (March 11).

Facebook concern

A 55-year-old Cohasset woman went to the police station on Saturday morning (March 12) for advice about someone she believes was logging into her Facebook account. She believes an ex-boyfriend is the one accessing her account. Police are going to serve Facebook with a request to identify the person.

HOW TO HELP

Family Chiropractic sponsors food drive

A food drive for Cohasset Food Pantry, sponsored by Cohasset Family Chiropractic, 814 Chief Justice Cushing Highway, will be held through March 30.


Residents who drop off nonperishable items at the

clinic will be entered to win a \$50 gift card to Whole Foods.

Most needed items include soups and chowders; hot and cold cereal; spaghetti sauce; tuna; mayonnaise; peanut butter; jams and jellies; canned fruit with low or

no sugar; apple, cranberry or vegetable juice; kid-size juice boxes; applesauce; coffee; tea; hot chocolate; toothpaste; toothbrushes; bar soap; shampoo and conditioner; and gift cards to Stop & Shop and Shaw's.

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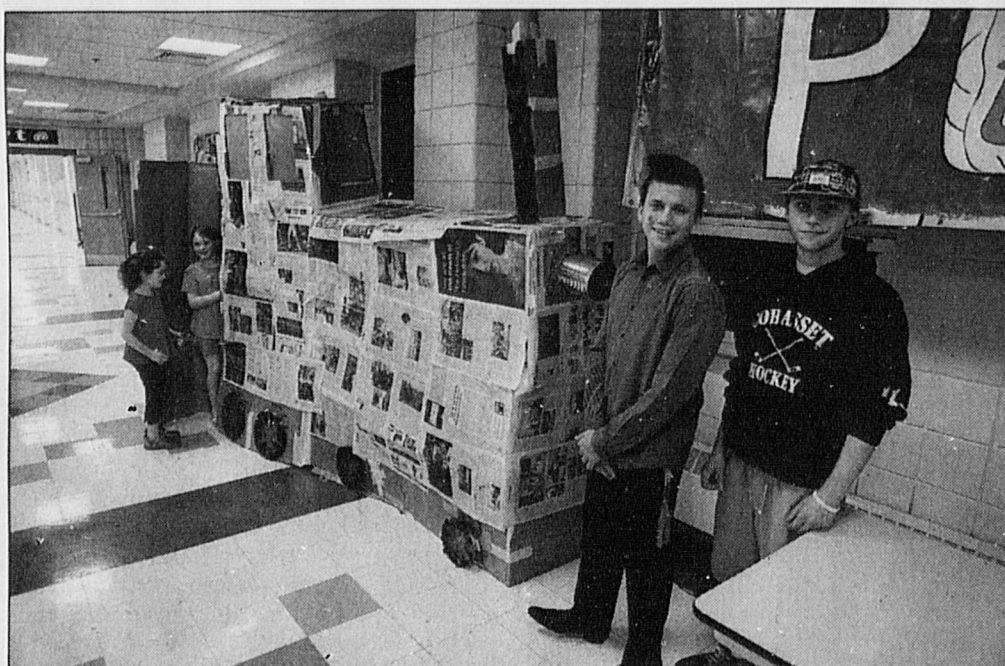
Recycled pARTS

The Cohasset High School Arts department hosted the 5th annual Recycled pARTS showcase on Wednesday, March 9th, at the high school. The event was open to all ages. Prizes were awarded in two categories: Wearable Art (clothing, shoes, or accessories) and Sculpture (functional or non-functional, 2D or 3D). The artwork must have been made from trash (recyclable or found materials).



STAFF PHOTOS BY CHRIS BERNSTEIN

Duncan Woodard, 5, exits the 'Trap Train', just one of the many recycled art projects on display at this year's exhibit.



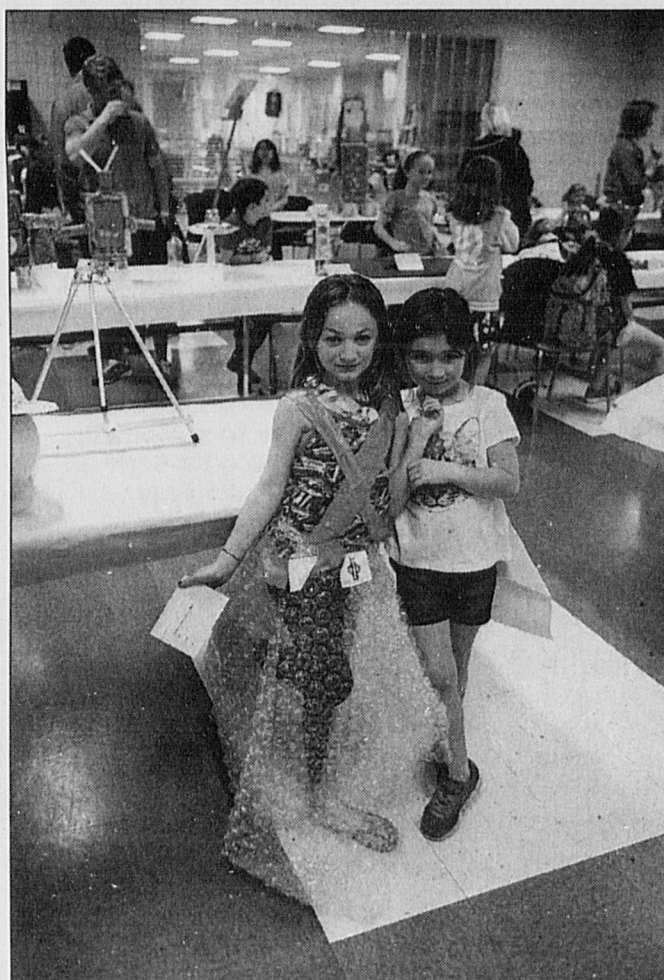
Trap Train creators Lukas Brown and Brad Winn are thrilled with the interest their project received at this year's recycled arts show.



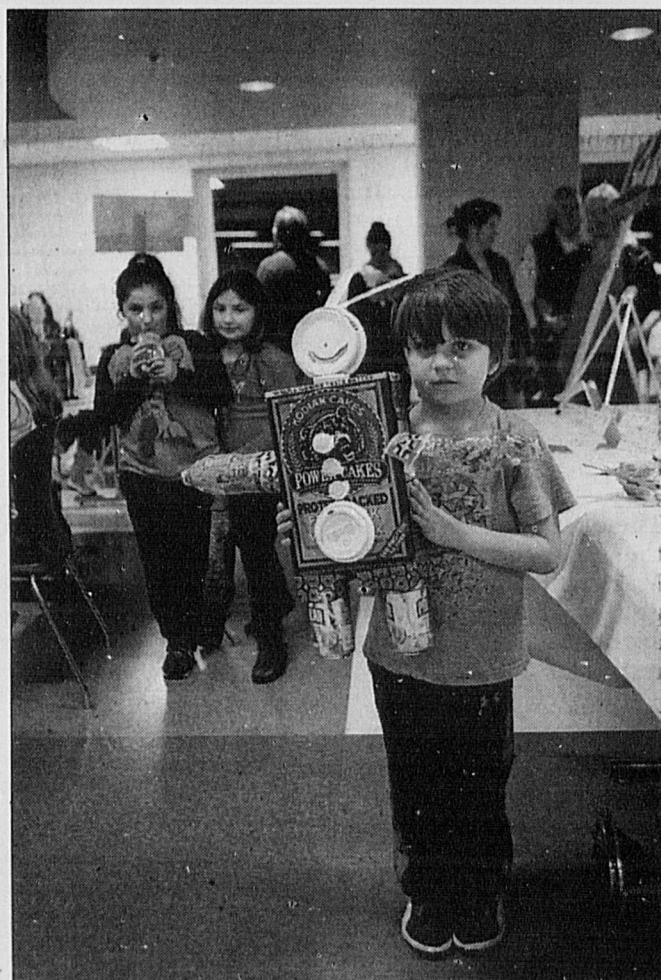
Mrs. Mc Davitt's 2nd graders proudly present their award winning recycled arts dragon.



Sophie Markowitz (top) and Dimitir Dilillo (below) with their recycled wardrobe creation.



2nd grader Madison Steimetz models a recycled arts dress co-created by her friend, first grader, Mae Geddes (R).



Miles Helmer, 5, and his recycled friend 'Jack the Robot'.



4th graders L-R, Catherine Toomey, Claire Ain, Katherine Ronzoni, and Eveline Ronzoni with their dolls clad in recycle arts jewelry and clothing.



5th graders Miya Bishop (L) and Natalie Corwin (R) with their award winning canine creation.



2nd grader Jack Kearney and his Aztec Temple creation.



L-R, Joyce Li, Lauren Bellefontaine, and Tasha Arnold, with their 'Reusable Pup'!

MORE CPC NEWS, A9

New snack shack food for thought

Some neighbors object to plans

By Amanda C. Thompson
athompson@wickedlocal.com

The Recreation Commission hopes to replace the ramshackle snack shack at Milliken Field with a fresh, modern building of the same dimensions, with one key improvement: the new one will have bathrooms.

This would fill a desperate need for the thousands of people who use the field every summer weekend – particularly parents with young children, who are too little to “hold it” or may need a diaper change, and particularly for elderly or disabled spectators, who today can barely access the field, let alone use the Porta-potties provided.

This proposal has been before the Community Preservation Committee for several meetings, and the board hoped to vote on the subject at its Monday, March 14th meeting. But now, in the 11th hour, abutters are coming forward with concerns, saying they never heard the project was moving forward until they read about it in the Mariner.

Before the public comment period, the committee seemed willing to split the cost evenly with Rec, provided the commission could find ways to bring the cost below \$200,000. One option could

CPC recommended that Rec schedule a meeting with abutters for later in the week and return to the March 21st CPC meeting with more information.

be to complete improvements in phases; another could be to install a prefabricated structure and modify it to match the general character of the neighborhood and town.

However, the abutters' objections changed all that.

“You say a thousand people use it every Saturday? Who is cleaning it? How often? Where are the supplies coming from?” asked abutter Patrick Olsen. “Think about the consequences of changing the functions so it doesn't end up looking like the Porta-potties that no one wants to use right now.”

“No one else in this entire town has a bathroom in their front yard,” said Scott Robbins, who lives across the street. He and his wife, Debbie Robbins, don't see the need for a bathroom at Milliken at all, saying that people are only at the field for an hour and a half during their child's game.

They think, if anything, bathrooms should be installed up the hill at Alumni Field



Neighbors say they have not been in the loop about plans to replace this shack on Milliken Field with a new building that includes bathrooms. WICKED LOCAL PHOTO BY MARY FORD

so that guests at high school games are not using the locker room facilities, which they feel is a security risk.

“If you're handicapped,” said Debbie, “you can go up to Alumni Field and use the bathrooms there.” And if the rock and dirt path skirting Alumni Field is too treacherous to navigate with a wheelchair or walker, then the handicapped and elderly can always just get in their car and drive up.

Or, Rec could rent a handicapped-accessible Porta-potty along with the standard ones it's already renting for the 20 weekends that sports are in session.

Doug Elder of Pleasant Street objected to the

Robbinses assumption that people only used the field for an hour and a half at a time. With three kids in sports, Elder can spend up to five hours at the field on a Saturday, and the current setup is so bad that he'll actually send other people down a path through the woods to use the bathroom at his house rather than let them suffer the indignity of the Porta-potties.

Liam O'Connell added on behalf of the baseball and soccer programs that the field gets used more often than just the weekends – the junior varsity baseball team practices there every day, and the high school varsity team plays there during the week.

“It's the only field for the baseball program,” said O'Connell.

Abutters, however, wanted the topic to go back to the Rec Commission for further discussion so that neighbors could have their say.

Elizabeth Frazier said the Rec Commission had met with abutters more than once when the project was in its earlier stages. The plans had not changed in the two years since then. Additionally, Recreation Director Ted Carroll had reportedly talked to the neighbors and been told that they wouldn't get involved unless the proposal went as far as CPC.

Frazier said the new building

would be no larger, and considerably more attractive, than the one that is currently there and would improve, not hurt, property values.

“We're making it better,” said Frazier. “There are a few neighbors concerned, but this will reach the entire rest of the town.”

Abutters said they had not been shown plans at the meeting two years ago and had not been consulted now that the project was moving forward. They said they'd always been against the project, but their concerns had not been heard.

Frazier wondered why they had not come to any of the Rec meetings; the topic had been on the agenda every meeting for the past two years. All meetings are public and posted according to Open Meeting Law. Neighbors said they didn't know about the meetings.

CPC recommended that Rec schedule a meeting with abutters for later in the week and return to the March 21st CPC meeting with more information.

“Everybody's intentions are good, but the neighbors don't feel included,” said Bonetti. “They need a chance to give input and have a look at these plans.”

—Follow Amanda on Twitter for updates: @MarinerAmandaT

TREE

From Page A1

“180 years is a good, full life for an ash,” added tree expert Gary Barrow, who is also a Mass certified arborist. Barrow was among a number of experts who looked at the tree, and they all said the same thing: the time has come for the old ash.

Barrow explained the concept of “wind sail

weight,” the weight of the canopy compared to what the trunk can support. The trunk is already mostly hollow inside, and every year that new growth continues in the canopy, the burden grows heavier while the backbone grows weaker.

“It's got the weight of a small cement truck sitting on top,” said Barrow, “and the trunk flare just keeps getting weaker.”

While everyone agreed that it would be nice to

A handful of citizens gathered to see if one more summer could be wrung out of the tree before taking it down, but Swanson didn't want to take the risk.

enjoy the tree's shade for one more summer, Barrow and the experts feared that it could be toppled if a large hurricane came through, posing a risk to both pedestrians and property.

The audience said there should at least be some

kind of ceremony before the tree is taken down. “We could dance around it,” suggested one woman. However, no decision was reached at Monday's meeting about how best to bid the tree adieu.

Swanson reported that

DPW already has plans to install new plantings to replace the beloved tree, a project he could undertake this spring or in the upcoming fall if funding can be secured.

He said the town has been looking at Liberty Elms, which are disease-resistant. The Common has been home to ornamental apple and cherry trees, as well. The one thing that won't go in the spot is a formal evergreen – the Common should

be shade trees only, Swanson and Barrow agreed.

The ash won't disappear tomorrow. DPW is still looking at prices for removal. In the meantime, don't be surprised if you see a couple of ladies dancing around the tree to wish it well on its journey to the arboreal afterlife.

Follow Amanda on Twitter for updates: @MarinerAmandaT

MEETING

From Page A1

There's a lot of potential there, depending on how Master Planning sessions go. Many hope to see more activity in the Village, and restaurants would play a big

part in that.

The advisory committee's stance on the rooms tax was similar. Board members said the rooms tax would probably apply to Air BnB rooms as well as hotels. Air BnB rooms are rooms rented out by

While most of the town's neighbors have approved a meals tax, this will be the proposal's fourth time on a Cohasset Town Meeting warrant.

private homeowners, which travelers can find and book through a web service.

A third warrant article, contingent on the first two passing, proposes to put

the revenue from the new tax toward the OPEB trust fund. This fund supports retired teachers and Town employees.

Like anything, the appropriation of funds would have to be approved by voters at Town Meeting,

and it would only apply this year; next year, voters would again have to support the application of new revenue to a specific purpose.

Both committees agreed to give the matter more thought before making a recommendation.

DEPT. OF CORRECTIONS

Clarification on 60 Elm St. rents

In a recent article about the use of Community Preservation funds for new refrigerators at the senior housing at 60 Elm Street, we stated the following: “The people who live there pay one third of their income, regardless of whether that's \$500 or \$5.”

While it is accurate that the lowest allowable payment is \$5, there are no current residents paying that amount. However, it still holds true that the amount collected in rent is not enough to cover a major financial investment like replacing 55 refrigerators.

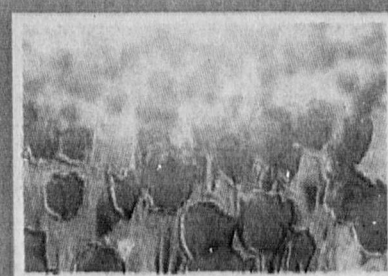
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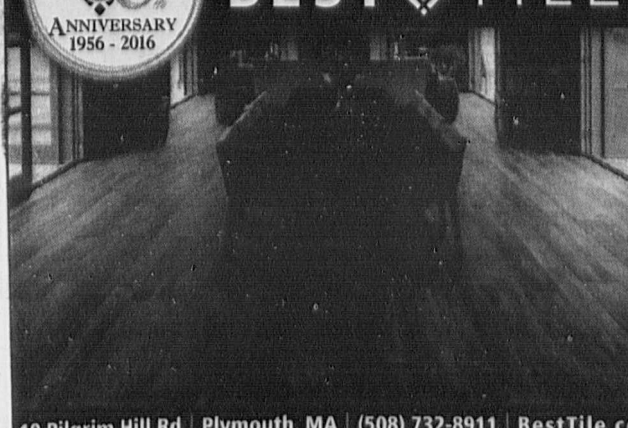
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ON STAGE

Cohasset ballerina competes in Boston

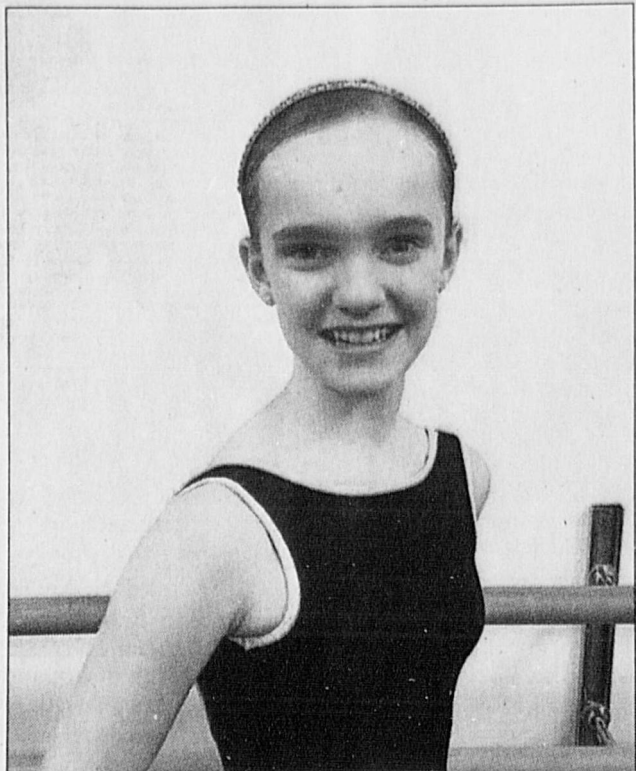
Six South Shore Ballet Theatre dancers, including Cohasset resident Olivia Hansen, will compete at the Youth American Grand Prix regional semi-final dance competition happening March 17 in Boston.

The South Shore Ballet Theatre has been sending students to the Youth American Grand Prix for the past three years. This year, the South Shore Ballet Theatre is sponsoring five individual competitors and an ensemble of six students ranging in age from 12 to 18.

Prizes are awarded to the top 25 dancers in each category. There are no trophies. The prizes offered are scholarships to study with several high-ranking ballet schools around the world and at a certain level (those 17 and older) positions as apprentices/trainees in world renowned ballet companies.

The South Shore Ballet Theatre has worked for the past eight years to develop a preprofessional school on the South Shore.

"The exposure from this competition for the dancer is the most important. The best of the best are all congregated in the same place for what



Olivia Hansen will compete at the Youth American Grand Prix regional semi-final dance competition. COURTESY PHOTO

The South Shore Ballet Theatre has been sending students to the Youth American Grand Prix for the past three years.

is essentially a group audition. The exposure on stage and comments from the judges is a critical part of a dancer's progression as they pursue their dream to become a dancer," said artistic director Marthavan

McKeon.

For information about South Shore Ballet Theatre or to schedule an interview with McKeon or a dancer, call 781-312-7224 or visit southshoreballettheatre.com.

AROUND TOWN

Race, walk dedicated to our Tommy Wigmore

Hey there Cohasset...a day late I know but I hope that everyone had a great time celebrating St. Patty's Day whether you were a kiddo trying so hard to find those mischievous little Leprechauns or, some of the "older kiddos" who celebrated in grown-up fashion. For families and all those who enjoyed a corned beef dinner and all, I hope that came out well too.

Now, onto the first day of spring on Sunday and, some chilly weather and possibly a bit of the white stuff flying here and there too! Enjoy it all, Happy Spring and have a super week. 1-4-3.

Special dedication

Here is something to start the news with that I am so touched by as it is of course, an annual event that we all look forward to every year but this year, it has an added meaning and reason that makes it even more special. First, for all who are needing and wanting to register to run in the 40th Annual Cohasset Rotary Road Race by the Sea 10K, the race is Sunday, April 3 at 1 p.m. The walk is the same day with a 10 a.m. start. Information and registration link are on the website, roadracebythesea.com and you can like it on Facebook.

Now, the added and additional piece of this year's event is that this year's race and The Fran Coffey Memorial Walk are dedicated to **Tommy Wigmore**, everyone's friend, and Cohasset's own



JENNIFER PIEPENBRINK

"Uncle Sam" whom we lost last year. The bibs have the Wiggy Strong logo and every walker will get bib #143. The new shirt design has something special too.

Dee Wigmore will be holding the break tape at the finish of the race for the female and male first place winners. Dee has been and continues to be so strong and supports all that goes on in town and to have this honor is huge. All proceeds from this race go to charities supported by Cohasset Rotary Club.

Holly Hill

Holly Hill Farm sent some info on a great Summer Camp option as well as some Brow Boar Farm info. Would you and your children like to spend a week or more at Holly Hill Farm this summer? Go to the website (hollyhillfarm.org) and click on the Camp Sign Up photo to learn more about individual sessions and to register early.

Camp Open House will be Saturday, March 19 from 10 a.m. to Noon. This is a great opportunity for parents to bring first time campers to the Farm so they can meet the staff, tour the farm and meet the farm animals. Find out about membership benefits and all that is offered during the coming

year. Sessions begin June 6 and continue through August 26. Call or email 781-383-6565 or friendsofhollyhillfarm@gmail.com.

Girls' hoop

Congratulations to the Cohasset 7th Grade Girls Travel Basketball Team for winning it all and becoming the LEAGUE CHAMPS! Playing on their home court at CMHS, the girls beat rival, Marshfield, 23-15 in the Old Colony League Championship Game on Sunday.

Under the coaching guidance of **Kelly Grech**, **Francine Galvin**, and **Brian Desjourdy**, the team entered the playoffs as the number one seed and with a regular season record of 12-1, their only loss to Marshfield. The girls worked hard all season and consistently showed great teamwork. Everyone looks forward to watching you next year as you defend your title!

Swim signups

Cohasset Swim Center is offering an early bird registration deal, helping applicants to save \$25 on a family membership.

Residents interested should visit the town of Cohasset Health and Recreation Fair from 1 to 4 p.m. March 20 at Deer Hill School, 208 Sohier St.

Red Cross Swim Lesson registration will be also be available for both members and nonmembers.

—That's it for the week Cohasset! Send in the news by Tuesday at 5 pm... EMAIL: aroundtowncohasset@yahoo.com

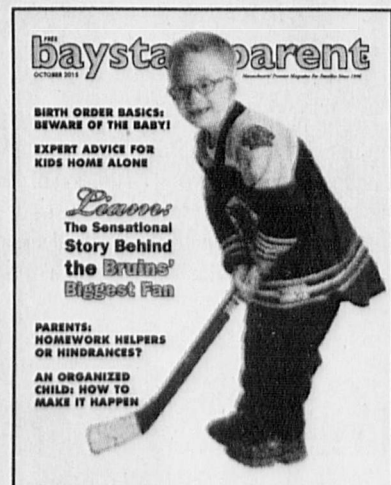
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5 THINGS TO DO THIS WEEK



Adelaide (Kelly Hines, far right in red,) and her Hot Box "Farmerettes" are just part of the cast of Cohasset Dramatic Club's "Guys and Dolls" running through March 26 at the Cohasset Town Hall Theater. Tickets: HYPERLINK "http://www.cohassetdramaticclub.org/" \t "_blank" www.cohassetdramaticclub.org or HYPERLINK "tel:617-922-0280" \t "_blank" 617-922-0280. COURTESY PHOTO

1 ON STAGE: Remaining performance dates for Cohasset Dramatic Club's musical comedy "Guys and Dolls," are: 7:30 p.m. March 18-19, 24-26; and 2 p.m., March 20. CDC pays tribute to its roots in presenting this show that takes audiences to a bygone era through the streets of Times Square to the clubs of old Havana. "Guys and Dolls" is a romantic comedy wrapped up in dice games, nightclub glitz and glamour, and big musical numbers. Tickets are \$20 for general admission. To purchase tickets online, visit cohassetdramaticclub.org. Group tickets can be reserved by calling 617-922-0280.

2 FAIR: The Health & Recreation Fair is this Sunday, March 20th from 1-4 p.m. The Fair is one stop shopping for everything from kid's activities to health screenings to acupuncture. Now in it's 8th year, the Health & Recreation Fair is Coordinated by Mary Goodwin, Cohasset's Public Health Nurse, and Ted Carroll, Director of Cohasset Recreation. Last year 1,000 visitors attended. See you THIS Sunday at the Deer Hill School, Sohier Street. For those registering for Cohasset Recreation Summer Playground, please remember to bring all of your necessary forms!

3 LIBRARY: Barn Babies: A live animal show: 1, 1:30, 2, 2:30 p.m. March 19 at the Paul Pratt Memorial Library. Baby animals will be available for visitors to snuggle, cuddle, and learn about. Register online at cohassetlibrary.org. Space is limited. For more information about the Barn Babies go to barnbabies.com.

4 •SWIMMING LESSONS: Cohasset Swim Center is offering an early bird registration deal, helping applicants to save \$25 on a family membership. Residents interested should visit the town of Cohasset Health and Recreation Fair from 1 to 4 p.m. March 20 at Deer Hill School. Red Cross Swim Lesson registration will be also be available for both members and nonmembers.

5 KITE DAY: Carlson Field in Bare Cove Park (enter off Fort Hill Street opposite MBTA train station) in Hingham will be the site of this year's Kite Day, sponsored by the South Shore Country Club, The Green Side Grille and Hingham Recreation. The family event, which will also offer free hayrides and hotdogs, runs from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., on Saturday, March 19, rain or shine. There is no fee to enjoy Kite Day and everyone is welcome to bring their own kites or browse the offerings on-site. For more on Kite Day please visit: southshorecc.com

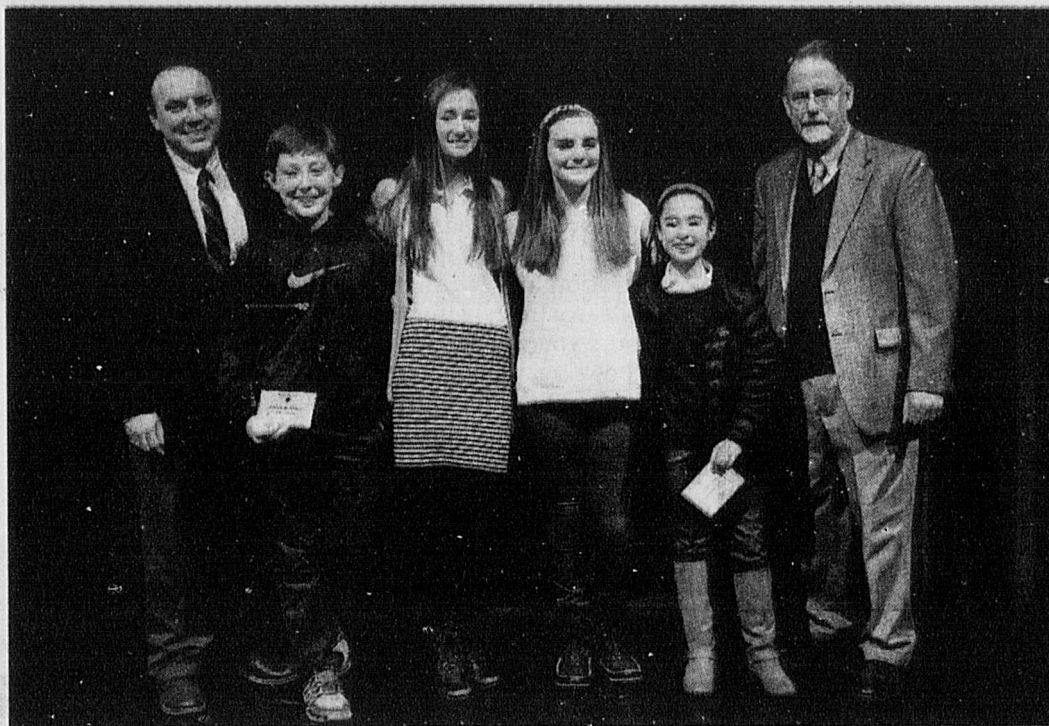
SCHOOLS

Derby students earn recognition

Joseph J. Perry, Jr., Head of School at Derby Academy in Hingham, has announced academic honors recipients for the first semester of the 2015-2016 school year. Recipients of these academic awards fall into two categories: First Honors, maintains an A- or above in all subjects; and Second Honors, maintains a B+ or above in all subjects.

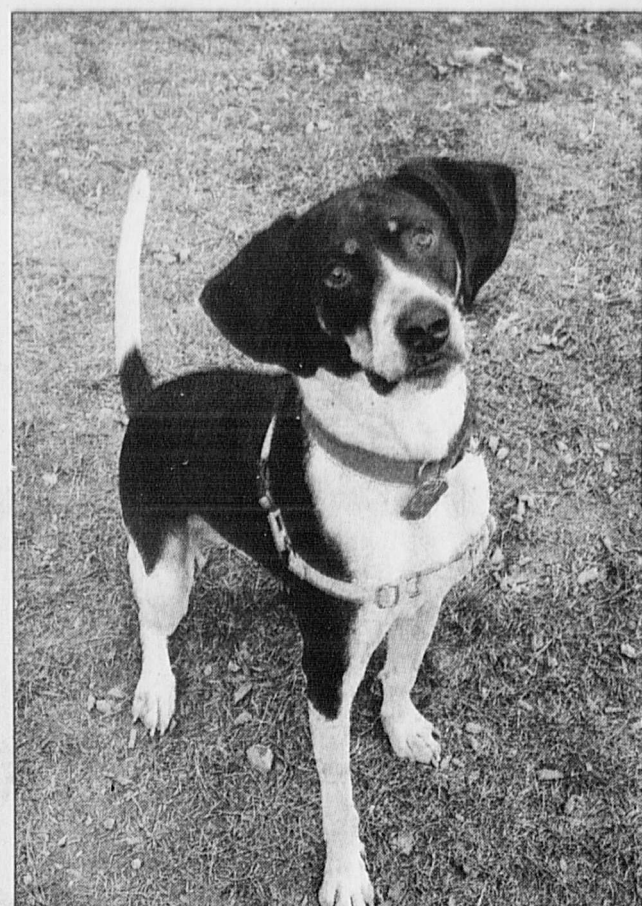
The following Cohasset students received Honors:

Phoebe Kahn, Grade 8, Second Honors; Natalie Maher, Grade 8, Second Honors; Lindsay Behenna, Grade 7, First Honors; and William McInerney, Grade 7, First Honors.



Derby Academy students from Cohasset received academic honors awards. Pictured (left-right): Head of School Joe Perry, William McInerney, Phoebe Kahn, Natalie Maher, Lindsay Behenna and Associate Head of School John Houghton. COURTESY PHOTO

DOG TALES



Baxter is full of fun and hopes to find a forever family soon. COURTESY PHOTO / RICH MCSWEENEY

Baxter is smart and energetic

I am Baxter, a two-year old coonhound and I need to set the record straight.

I would love to become a member of your family, assuming a) your children are 13 or older and b) there are no cats around. And it would be great if you had another dog who could become my buddy.

The "problem," I guess, is that I am rather energetic and I really like a lot of exercise. I must admit I have been known to chew on a thing or two when I get bored from not enough exercise. Now, if you're one of the many people who love to do your running in the company of a dog, I am your ideal companion.

Don't think I don't like my down time. I love curling up on the couch while you're watching TV.

I'm sorry, but I can't help bragging. I have been lauded for my intelligence and I can tell you that people who have had coon hounds swear by them. Full disclosure: I am house-trained, but I have an occasional — I said occasional — lapse and I am going to correct this. I promise.

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As told to Bob Ryan, Boston Globe columnist emeritus and ESPN commentator.

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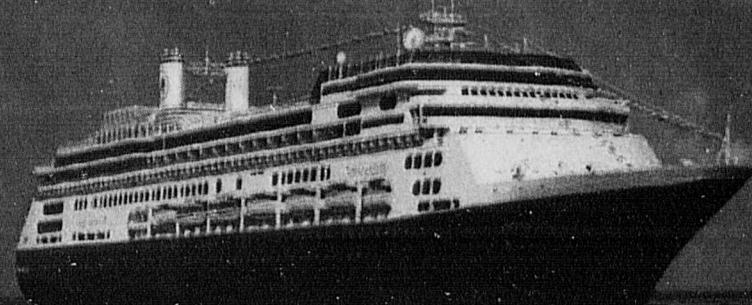
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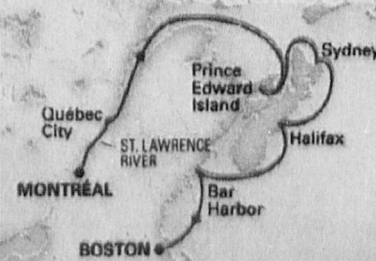
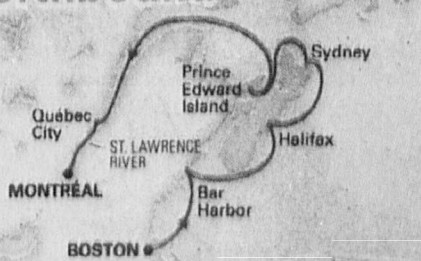
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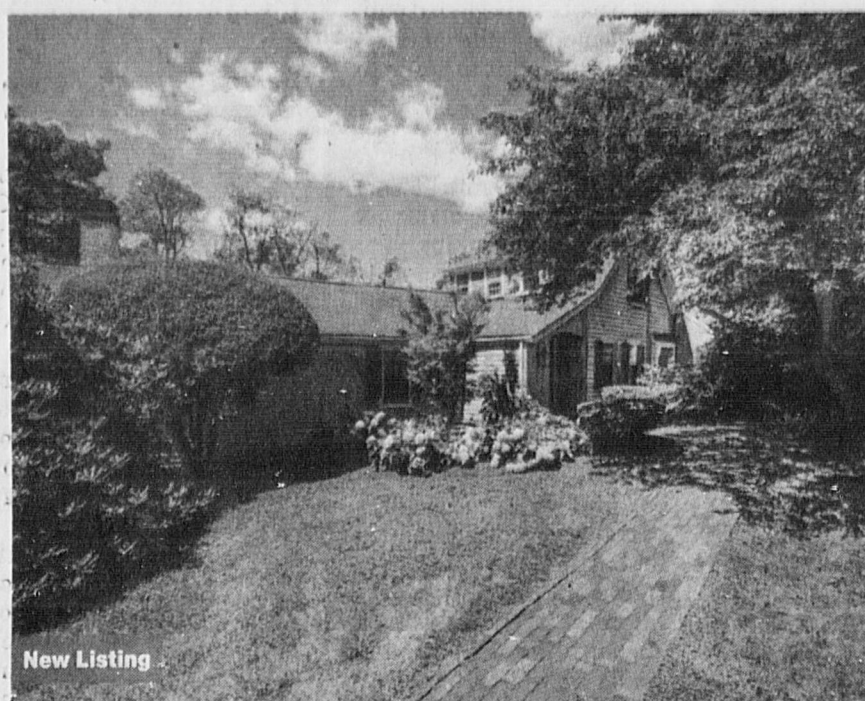
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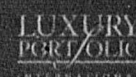
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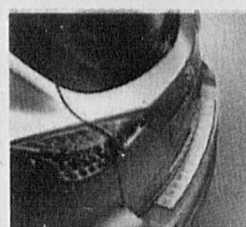


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UPDATE

No go for church exterior work

Funding proposal for 2nd Congo not supported

By Amanda C. Thompson
athompson@wickedlocal.com

Second Congregational Church of Cohasset made a good-faith effort to convert the Community Preservation Committee to its cause, but in this instance, good faith was not enough.

On Monday, March 14, a motion to recommend funding for desperately-needed restoration work to the church's façade failed to pass in a tied vote of 4-4. The decision came on the heels of four meetings' discussion and deliberation.

Wayne Sawchuk, a trustee of the church, presented a modified proposal with a more digestible price tag than the church's original request. Originally, the church was looking for historical restoration of windows, safety- and aesthetics-related repairs to the front portico, replacement of doors, and some roof repairs, all to the tune of \$187,000.

The new proposal focused on five elements on the front of the church, which is part of the Cohasset Common Historic District. This was in

compliance with the board's previous request that the church prioritize its requests and focus on those areas which the CPC could, by law, actually help with.

Community Preservation Act funds can't be used for maintenance, so roof repairs were out of the question, as were doors and windows on the sides of the building not facing the historic Common.

CPC member Susan Hoadley, an architect, did point out that, according to the federal government, "Preservation is, by definition, maintenance and repair of historic structures." Thus, just because something could be construed as maintenance, it shouldn't disqualify a worthy organization from receiving CPA funds if it needs them, and if their application will benefit the broader community.

Under the new proposal, the requested funds would have furnished new front doors, restored the balustrade and balcony, and replicated historic front windows – though with tighter frames to prevent additional weather-related damage from destroying the new fixtures as it has done to the old.

All of this would come to a much more digestible \$65,600. The church offered to contribute \$15,000.

Previously it had not volunteered any of its own funds, as the pennies in its piggy bank had been collected for the purpose of replacing the organ.

"That's a big problem to me," said CPC member Michael Dickey upon learning this at the board's Feb. 22nd meeting. "The congregation should be helping themselves. Coming in and saying you want 100 percent from the CPC rubs me the wrong way. Most groups are looking to match funds."

The church heard the board's concerns and responded. The estimate had been consolidated; the budget had been reduced; preservation-oriented elements had been identified and prioritized. With its offer of \$15,000, the church had finally gotten some skin in the game. For all that, the board thanked Sawchuk.

Additionally, the new request for \$50,600 fit nicely within the committee's budget, which is subdivided into three categories: historical preservation, open space and recreation, and affordable housing (any dollars left over once those pots are filled go into a general fund).

But that wasn't enough to sell the project.

There has been some

■ The new proposal focused on five elements on the front of the church, which is part of the Cohasset Common Historic District.

controversy over this request since the beginning. Some felt that it trod too close to the line between church and state and violated the Anti-Aid Amendment, which prohibits public money from being used for religious purposes.

Having previously funded similar restoration work for a church just across the street from Second Congregational, the CPC wasn't too concerned about the "separation of church and state" argument.

But other objections carried more weight. Resident Howie Altholtz pointed out that the church is private property and doesn't pay taxes to support the Town, so why should the Town support it?

Altholtz crunched the number and declared that, with 400-odd members, the church could reach its \$65,600 goal with just a \$125 contribution from each member.

"We're giving money to people who don't need it," he said. "It's not the Town's role to step in and bail them out."

Altholtz felt that the upkeep of the building should

not have been neglected until it reached a point of crisis that required it to come to the Town for help.

Leonora Jenkins, a member of the church, agreed with Altholtz. "This is not a prudent use of our tax dollars," said Jenkins. "I'm familiar with the finances of the church. They could be doing better with the money we all contribute."

Members Susan Hoadley, Margy Charles, Susan Sardina, and Chairman Russ Bonetti voted in favor of the project, but their four votes were not enough to outbalance the four "nays" that came from members Michael Dickey, Alex Koines, Richard Karoff, and Diane Kennedy, who is the liaison from the Board of Selectmen.

As a selectwoman, Kennedy had a broader view of the issue.

"I can't be in favor," said Kennedy. "Town Hall needs the historic funds. This money is going to be asked for and needed very soon by the Town."

Follow Amanda on Twitter for updates: @MarinerAmandaT

SAVE THE DATE

Beechwood Church, 60 Elm, snack shack are coming up

By Amanda C. Thompson
athompson@wickedlocal.com

The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) will meet on Monday, March 21st to follow up on items that were not ready for a vote at last week's meeting.

CPC is voting to recommend items to Annual Town Meeting, so citizens will still get the final say on whether these projects go forward.

The committee will discuss the potential for purchasing the soon-to-close Beechwood Church building and converting it into affordable housing units.

For members of CPC, the board of selectmen, and other town officials, creating more affordable housing in town is a major priority, with looming consequences if the town fails to do so.

The building and property are assessed at \$500,000.

If CPC buys it, Community Preservation Act funding restrictions guarantee that the historic structure would be preserved and only the interior would be re-purposed. An outside developer would likely tear the church down.

The committee will also return to the question of how it can help the Housing Authority make improvements to the senior affordable housing units at 60 Elm Street.

The board recently learned that Community Preservation Act funds can't be used for non-permanent improvements, like the refrigerators it had recently voted to provide.

In fact, CPA funds are not supposed to go toward existing public housing at all – only toward new housing.

But funds can be used to bring a building up to code by making it handicapped accessible. After the last meeting, Chairman Russ Bonetti planned to investigate the possibility of funding an automatic door for the main building at 60 Elm.

Finally, CPC will reconvene with the Rec Commission to make a decision about proposed improvements to the Milliken Field snack shack. CPC would have voted on this topic last week, but when abutters said they had not seen building plans or had a chance to voice their concerns, Bonetti recommended that Rec take the time to meet with neighbors before asking CPC to make up its mind.

Follow Amanda on Twitter for updates: @MarinerAmandaT

UPDATE

Marathon meeting weighs in on projects

Community Preservation Committee has a full plate

By Amanda C. Thompson
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Hardly anyone walked away happy from Monday's Community Preservation Committee (CPC) meeting. But if the committee gets its way about a new opportunity for affordable housing, all those pennies it had to pinch could be well spent in the near future.

Beechwood Church

Town management and the CPC have their eyes on the soon-to-close Beechwood Church as a potential site for affordable units. St. Mary's Catholic Church in Hull recently underwent a similar transformation, although the units there are luxury condos, not affordable housing.

Due to Community Preservation Act (CPA) restrictions, CPC couldn't create luxury units, only affordable ones. And it couldn't do a total tear-down of the church, but would have to work within the frame of the existing structure.

Since the topic was not reasonably anticipated within 48 hours of the meeting, it didn't make it onto the agenda. Chairman Russ Bonetti said he would do his homework this week and bring his findings to a follow-up meeting Monday, March 21st.

Refrigerators

Next, CPC had bad news for the Housing Authority. The powers-that-be put the ice on the committee's plans to provide 55 new refrigerators for the affordable senior housing units at 60 Elm Street, clarifying that Community Preservation Act funds may not be spent on anything that isn't permanent.

Additionally, while a primary goal of CPCs is to advance affordable housing goals in communities, the funds are not supposed to be directed toward existing public housing units.

This came as news to the committee, which has been using CPA funds to support the housing at 60 Elm Street for years. Such usage never met any resistance at Annual Town Meeting.

For Chairman Russ Bonetti, that would be good enough, but now that he knows the rules, he intends to play by them. The committee therefore voted to reverse its former vote to provide the fridges for a total of \$33,000.

Bonetti said he would talk to the higher-ups during the week to see if there was anything else CPC could do for 60 Elm. For instance, the main building lacks an automatic door, and bringing something up to code by making it handicapped-accessible is considered an acceptable use of CPA funds.

This topic will also be on the agenda for the March 21st meeting.

Second Congo

Next, the committee continued the hearing for Second Congregational Church's request for restoration funds. The church had scaled back its request, as the board had previously asked, but the motion still failed to carry in a vote of 4-4, and CPC will not be recommending the expenditure at Town Meeting.

See our full story on the Second Congo vote for more details.

Milliken Field

The hearing for proposed improvements to Milliken Field continued next. Recreation Commission Chairman Elizabeth Frazier represented the board, while other members of the commission observed hopefully from the audience. Rec hopes to replace the ramshackle snack shack at Milliken Field with a fresh, modern building of the same dimensions, with one key improvement: the new one will have bathrooms.

At first, the committee seemed willing to split the cost with Rec, provided the commission could bring the cost below \$200,000. However, abutters spoke up during public comment and changed all that. Neighbors are concerned about looking out their front windows and seeing a bathroom. What if it's not properly cleaned and maintained? Abutters said they had been against the project from the beginning but had not been given an

opportunity to voice their concerns in front of the Rec Commission.

Rec felt the opportunity had been there – they met with neighbors in an earlier planning stage, and the topic has been on the agenda for every meeting for years. However, they agreed to CPC's request that they schedule an abutters meeting later in the week and come back to CPC after hearing out the neighbors. See our full story on the snack shack vote for more details.

Frazier got a more definite answer on her next proposal – a joint proposal between the Rec and the Library Trustees, which would improve the safety and function of the rear parking lot and play area that the Rec and library share.

A primary point of concern is the fire lane that loops around the back of the building. With so many children around, it's not safe to simply leave it open anymore.

"This was never supposed to be a real traffic road," said Fire Chief Bob Silvia. "There are actually people who choose to cut through that parking lot to avoid the traffic light. If you're trying to beat the red light, imagine the amount of speed you're carrying around that corner."

This project would contribute to a community "campus" that includes the Rec Center, the library, and the nearby senior center at Willcutt Commons. CPC agreed to furnish up to \$48,000 for

the planning phase. This will fund studies and the development of a full plan that could then go before CPC for funds to actually see it through.

Pratt building

Briefly, the board voted to change the designation of two moderate income senior housing units located in the lower level of the historic Pratt building to simply "moderate income."

Kathy O'Malley of the Historical Society said they have had trouble renting out one of the units in particular, and part of that is due to the difficulty of access. Opening up that unit to younger renters would help avoid the months-long spans without a tenant and would create fiscal security for the Society, which relies on the income from rent payments. Finally, the board voted to settle a debt payment for an outstanding open space bond for the amount of \$27,377 and to earmark \$59,900 of its budget for each of three categories: affordable housing, historical preservation, and open space or recreation initiatives.

All of these topics, as well as anything else that CPC decides to support at next week's meeting, are recommendations only and will go before voters at Annual Town Meeting on May 2nd for final approval.

Follow Amanda on Twitter for updates: @MarinerAmandaT

FINANCES

Cohasset receives an AAA bond rating from Standard & Poor's

The following is a press release from the Selectmen's Office.

The town of Cohasset has received a AAA rating, assigned by the rating agency Standard & Poor's after a review of the town's finances.

The AAA rating, which is the highest that S&P assigns, is also the highest bond rating ever achieved by the town.

"Attaining a AAA bond rating is an incredible testament to Cohasset's financial management, and represents the culmination of a lot of hard work by staff and residents alike, especially the Board of Selectmen and Advisory Committee" said Cohasset town manager Christopher Senior. "Cohasset is a AAA community in which to live, work and raise a family, and it now also

has AAA credit."

S&P highlighted "very strong management," as well as "strong budgetary performance" and a "very strong economy" in its report on the AAA upgrade.

"We view the town's management as very strong, with 'strong' financial policies and practices under our Financial Management Assessment methodology, indicating financial practices are strong, well embedded, and likely sustainable," the report noted.

"Mary and Paula have been working tirelessly to improve both short and long term fiscal operations, including the development of new and improved financial management policies on topics such as debt management, investment, and cash handling," Senior said of the work of

town finance director Mary Gallagher and treasurer collector Paula Linhares in reaching the AAA rating.

S&P credit analyst Christina Marin emphasized those policy upgrades in a press release that accompanied the rating announcement.

"The upgrade reflects the integration of stronger reporting mechanisms and planning tools that we believe will help sustain the town's strong financial profile over time," Marin stated.

"This was a goal adopted by the town five years ago," said Selectman chairman Steve Gaumer. "While the town manager's announcement that Cohasset had been awarded a AAA bond rating may not sound exciting at first, it is an extraordinary accomplishment which recognizes

the town's fiscal prudence, attention to liabilities and stable management. There are myriad people to thank for its creation and support, though most of all, thanks should go to you the citizens for supporting such a worthy endeavor."

"The AAA bond rating is a great boost for the town, and reflects the hard work and disciplined decision making that many, many people have made over the past four years," said Nan Roth the chairman of the town's Advisory Committee.

"Congratulations to our town manager Chris Senior, our finance department team and all the committees and boards that so greatly helped make the achievement of a AAA bond rating possible for Cohasset," said Kevin McCarthy, selectman vice chair. "It

was a team effort which benefits the entire community by significantly strengthening our financial posture. A rare achievement and a job very well done."

"I would like to congratulate Chris Senior, our town manager of Cohasset for attaining a AAA municipal bond rating for our town," added Selectman Dr. Paul Schubert. "A great deal of work and effort by him, his staff and numerous members of committees in town achieved this ranking. I tip my hat to all the team members of our town that resulted in such a fine rating."

Selectman Diane Kennedy, the longest serving member of the board, also underscored the collaboration that went into the upgrade.

"Cohasset's achievement

of a AAA bond rating more than anything recognizes the strong financial management team in town hall and affirms the collaborative work over the past few years between town hall and the dedicated elected and appointed officials who serve on the financial committees and enterprise commissions," said Kennedy. "As a selectman, I could not be more proud of the tone, the energy, and the positive 'let's figure this out' attitude of the town leadership, particularly town manager Chris Senior."

A higher bond rating will generally lead to lower interest rates on borrowing, decreasing the long term costs for infrastructure and equipment. AAA is the highest rate assigned by S&P.

OPINION

QUESTIONS? Contact Editor Mary Ford at 781-741-2933 or mford@wickedlocal.com.

OUR VIEW

Time for a new approach

Civilians in the United States own a combined 310 million guns, according to the Congressional Research Service. That's roughly one gun for every man, woman and child in this country.

The reasons are as varied and complex as the number of gun owners. Some people own guns for protection, others for hunting. Some are marksmen, others are re-enactors. Some have sentimental attachment to a military weapon owned by a forebear. Some keep a gun for its collectible or historic value.

And yes, some are killers.

But it is this last group that has become the near-exclusive focus of the heated national debate about guns. The mass killings in Littleton, Colorado; Newtown, Connecticut; Aurora, Colorado; and Charleston, South Carolina, among others, and the near-weekly smaller-scale shootings that instantly find their way onto our television screens and news feeds, have commanded the discussion.

It's unfair, both to those who own guns and those who don't.

It's time for a new approach.

We ask you to read the stories about gun ownership that appear in this edition, and to check your assumptions at the door when you do. And we ask you to consider joining a broader, informed debate about guns — one that might eliminate the "us" and "them" rhetoric, examine alternate points of view and advance actual solutions.

The typical gun owner is no more a swaggering, Marlboro-smoking cowboy with an NRA sticker on his pickup than the typical gun opponent is a fearful, ranting absolutist with a permanently closed mind.

We are all as complex as the issue at hand, and we can all contribute to the dialogue.

How?

In ways both personal and institutional.

Mental health issues, for example, are often cited as a cause of many incidents of gun violence, and the state legislature is currently studying the best way to get firearms out of the hands and home of

a distressed person, and how to steer that person toward treatment. The task force is composed of seven-member committee is composed of a public safety and a public health official, a gun ownership advocate, an appointee from the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association, someone from the committee for public counsel services, an appointee by the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Massachusetts Inc., and an appointee of the Massachusetts District Attorneys Association.

We hope the balance on the task force will result in a well thought out, holistic plan to concurrently address mental health and public safety needs.

Why not sponsor a discussion about guns, perhaps bringing in representatives from local gun clubs, to both educate (what is an assault weapon, anyway? What are the provisions of the Second Amendment?) and consider varied perspectives on broader, national questions. Who should own guns, and what kind? Who should decide? Should gun licensing regulations be standardized across states? Should standards be different in rural versus urban settings? Surely neighborhood discussions can be more civil — and productive — than billboard messages and paid air time.

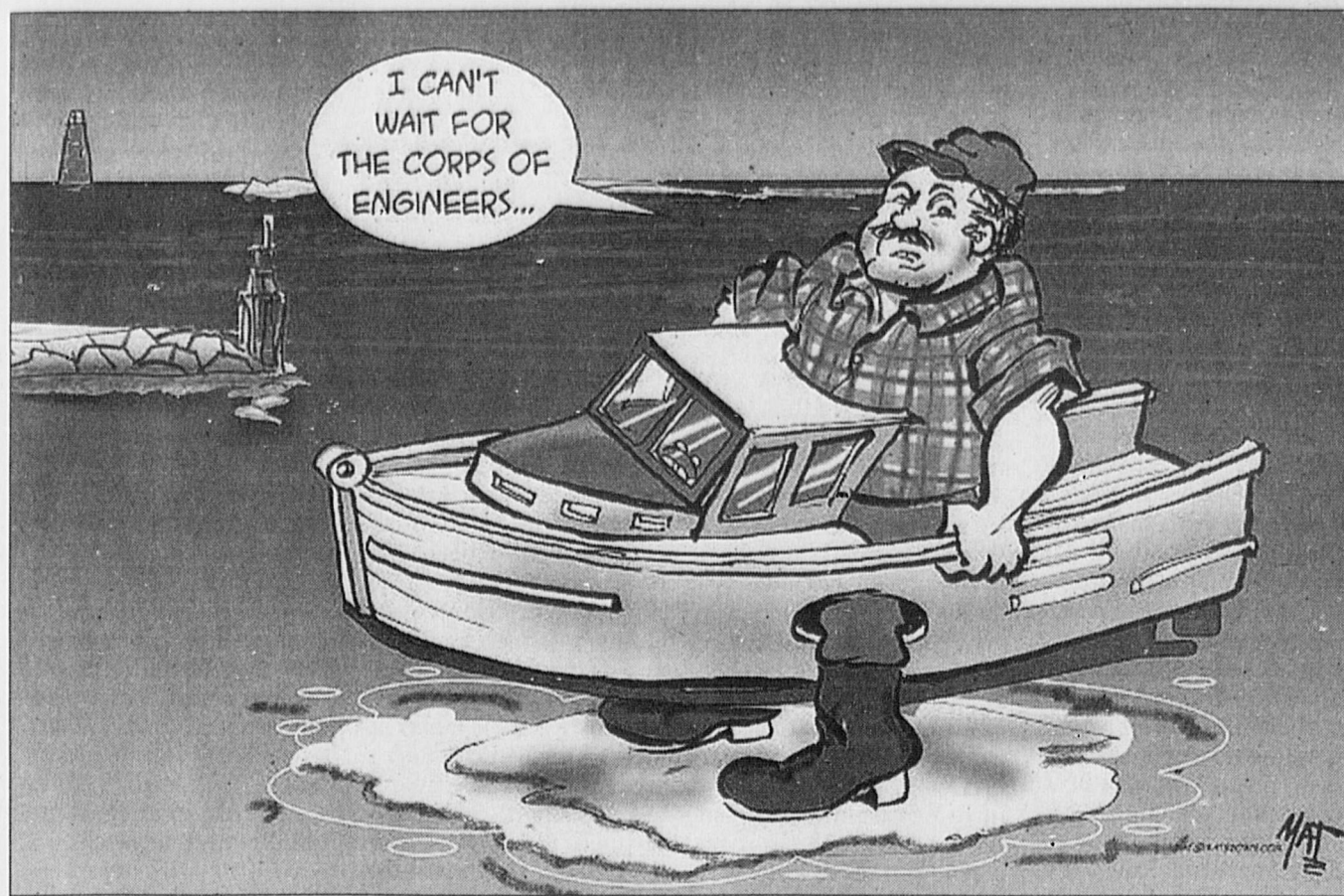
Politicians, too, can have a role.

Legislators like Rep. Jim Cantwell, D-Marshfield, who serves on the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security, have been leaders in starting the discussion and earning a consensus from opposing sides on gun control laws across the state. Whether the discussion leads to legislation — which it has many times — matters less than whether it educates and benefits the constituency.

And perhaps something as simple as a gun-owner and a gun-hater who live on the same street sharing their wishes and fears can help advance the discussion. Surely it is better than sitting in isolation with entrenched views.

Screaming has gotten us nowhere.

Let's talk.



GROWING ON THE FARM

Volunteers part of the family

Much like the seeds that sit submerged in the soil, there may be many volunteers who are waiting out this winter (though it is comparably mild and rather tolerable; the vernal spring equinox arrives March 21.)

The volunteers in waiting may be the reliable seed sowers who love to come smell the soil, feel the warmth of the greenhouse and carefully place organic and saved seeds into well-built wooden seed trays and flats with 50 cells and 72 cells hoping for multiple seedlings.

These dedicated greenhouse worker bees have come for years to sit on a stool, lean over the newly designed mesh tables and consider the germination rates, percentages and conditions for seeds to prosper. They also have a chance to chat with Jean about goings-on in town and memories from springs past, while igniting a renewed dedication to friends working together for a common cause.



JON BELBER

Many who have not had a chance to gather in the warm hoop house need not worry whether they can join in the growing. This is no club, rather a group of folks who enjoy the companionship and being a part of the farm family.

Many folks wishing to volunteer may seek to triple wash the greens, gently scrub the root vegetables and dunk the potatoes to show the true purple of a red-skinned potato. The days for washing and prepping the produce for market are yet to come. But when the salad days arrive and the farm stand market opens in May, followed by the Cohasset Farmer's Market on June 9, there will be a need for volunteers to come help the farmers. As spring creeps in

more, the garden beds at the farm would benefit from many hands coming to turn the soil, remove the lingering autumn leaves and let breathe the perennials in the Key-hole garden, the Curve garden, the Paddock garden (where the horses roamed), the Park Here beds and the Education Garden.

There are also a great many teacher volunteers who come to the farm to greet, teach, (serve as a docent [docere = to lead]), excite and engage students, parents and teachers on school field trips. The volunteer teachers are vital as they help us provide valuable information on organic farming and what plants need to grow to countless students. As with any endeavor, the farmers and educators at Holly Hill will help guide and teach all volunteers in the skills of seed sowing, the details of garden cultivation and the nuance of teaching and effectively communicating.

Interested in being a

part of the farm? Curious to learn more at a monthly potluck luncheon to exchange ideas? Intrigued at what it would mean to be part of a caring, sustainable community? Call the farm and let us know if you or a friend would like to come to a welcome-to-the-farm volunteer gathering open house.

At 10 a.m., Saturday, March 19, we will host an opportunity to learn about the many ways you can volunteer, as well as visit with returning veterans to gain their insight. If those times do not work, then still call us, stroll by or emerge from winter to help us at the farm. Lots growing on at the farm.

— Jon Belber is the education director at Holly Hill Farm and a regular columnist. He teaches students and adults about organic gardening and farming. He can be reached by email at jbelberhollyhill@hotmail.com. For information on upcoming programs at Holly Hill, visit www.hollyhillfarm.org.

CONSERVATORY NOTES

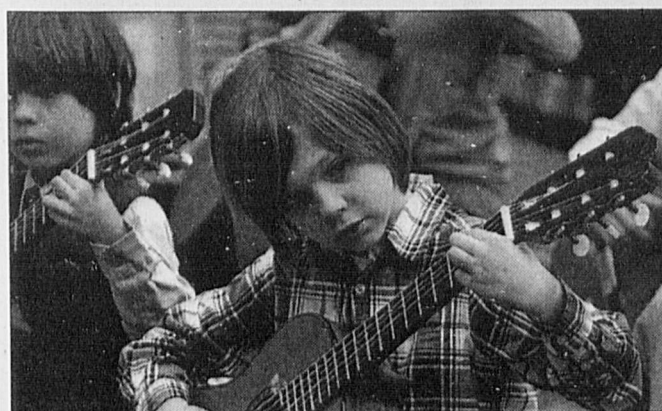
Youngsters shine at Performathon

By Beth MacLeod Largent

I can't actually remember my first time performing as a child, but I do remember the first performance that really knocked my socks off and made me think, "This is what I want to do for my life." I was in eighth grade at Duxbury Middle School, and saw the Duxbury High School production of L'il Abner.

There was singing, dancing, incredible costumes... it all seemed so glamorous and totally foreign to the nerdy clarinet player I was at the time. I had been singing in choir with friends, but imagined my musical life being spent in the pit band, not on the stage. This love of stage propelled me to New England Conservatory, where I saw the next performance that changed my life — Carmen. The rest is, as they say, history.

As Director of Performance, I'm so very lucky to see first-rate performances every week, most by professional musicians, but more and more often by students. I'd forgotten how joyful that can be. You see, as a student at New England Conservatory, I was treated to free performances almost daily.



Young musicians shine in the Performathon, a 4-day fund raising performance marathon at Barnes & Noble in Hingham. COURTESY PHOTO

There was everything from solo violinists to opera singers, wind ensembles, jazz, world music and more. It was an amazing smorgasbord of sound and thrilling music.

Once I started working at South Shore Conservatory I could once again hear my fill of all kinds of music: incredible jazz, orchestral masterworks, piano duets, concertos, opera, bluegrass and indie rock. It is one of the best parts of coming to work every day.

As lessons begin, I hear the sound of little feet running joyfully to their classrooms. Then the music begins! LOTS of Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star on multiple Suzuki guitars, mixed in with budding classical singers,

violinists of all ages, and rock musicians learning their riffs. Daily lessons make up the soundtrack of my days, and mini performances give me reason to smile through winter's drudgery.

Best of all, I get to hear the progress of those Twinkle players who perform at student recitals, open mics and of course, Performathon which takes place March 31 – April 1 at Barnes & Noble in Hingham.

The South Shore Conservatory's Performathon is a beautiful thing to be a part, both as a performer and as an audience member. It's four days, 23 hours of performances by all levels of students. All the hard work, the hours of lessons and the joy of

music come together at Performathon. Best of all its KIDS helping KIDS. The money raised at this performance marathon benefits scholarships at the conservatory, a very important part of our mission of making the arts accessible for all.

Anyone can support this effort by sponsoring a student performer, making an instore purchase from March 31 – April 3, or an online purchase from March 31 – April 8. Mention South Shore Conservatory at the time of purchase, or enter Bookfair ID #11812922 online, and a portion of the proceeds goes directly to the conservatory. All purchases count, even those made at the Starbucks counter!

South Shore Conservatory's Performathon 2016 runs Thursday, March 31 from 5 to 9 p.m., Friday, April 1, from 4 to 9 p.m., Saturday, April 2 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday, April 3 from 12 – 5 p.m. Grab yourself a cup of coffee and a chair at Barnes & Noble, and prepare to be entertained and wowed.

To learn more about Performathon, visit ssc-music.org or find us on Facebook.

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LIFE AT CHS

Mr. Skipper pageant is tonight

The students of CHS have been abuzz with activity this rainy week in March. Though we're not hearing any final decisions from colleges yet, senior students are preoccupied with the impending scholarship deadlines, as well as waiting patiently to hear the announcements for the new indictments to National Honors Society.

In anticipation of the Mr. Skipper pageant taking place tonight at seven o'clock at the high school, the Spinnaker staff has released a long-awaited Spin-sheet all about the event; the contestants, the escorts- even advice from some teacher on how to win the competition! This year's pageant is sure to be filled with hilarity and some ridiculousness, as the senior class had great turn-out and many of this year's contestants participated in last year's pageant as well.

Tonight we'll be crowning a new Mr. Skipper, something that is not only looked forward to all-year round, but also signifies one of the last major student events that will be held with the senior class. Though this year's seniors will be missed by the underclassmen in just a few months, I doubt they'll be too devastated to start using the senior café as their own during lunch and fill up the vacant parking spaces.

On the athletics side of things, the Dodgeball tournament came



BECCA FREDEY

to an epic conclusion on Tuesday afternoon -- congratulations to the winning team! Following in that vein, the 2016 JV Basketball team got a blast from the past when a few former basketball players competed against them in a recreational game, with the alumni beating out this year's boys' team 42-33.

Last Friday night saw a tough loss for the boys' varsity basketball team in their playoff game against Cathedral High School at Curry College. The boys had a very successful year otherwise, and there was a strong Skipper presence at their last game to finish out the season.

Though the girls' basketball season ended, seniors Emily and Megan Rosano got named as South Shore League Girls' Basketball All-Stars, and Megan won the South Shore League "3-pointer contest". Congratulations to all the teams and players on great seasons!

The walls in the guidance hallway get increasingly crowded as more and more colleges offer acceptance letters to the qualified students of CHS. Now, many students tackle the monstrous packet that highlights all of the scholarships offered

This year's pageant is sure to be filled with hilarity and some ridiculousness, as the senior class had great turn-out and many of this year's contestants participated in last year's pageant as well.

through the town, various booster programs, as well as donors that students may apply for to help pay for college expenses. Though some of the scholarships are oddly specific (I believe there was one requiring interest in entering the dental field of study) students are grateful to have the opportunity to receive recognition for their hard work, though they're not as thrilled to be handed more applications to fill out.

I know that Cohasset is simply a hotbed of entertainment and opportunity, however if your schedule happens to be free tonight, come support our pageant boys as they compete for the Mr. Skipper title and probably, embarrass themselves just a little bit.

— *Becca Fredey is a senior at CHS and weekly columnist for the Mariner. She's wondering if it's too late to join the boys' hockey team and apply for the corresponding scholarship offered. She thinks it might be.*

VIEW FROM THE FRONT PORCH

Duxbury's terrible decision

"Those who do not learn history are doomed to repeat it." — George Santayana

Let's cut right to it, last week the town of Duxbury demonstrated incredibly poor judgement when it voted overwhelmingly to make underage drinking a misdemeanor crime. By a margin of nearly 20-1, the town reduced the consequences of drinking as a minor and in so, bought into a bad bill of goods. Now they have to hope for the best.

In 1981 my family moved to Hingham, prior to that we had lived in Duxbury for close to five years. With its beautiful shorelines and marshes, its classic architecture and winding roads, Duxbury has much in common with Cohasset. It was a great place to grow up in my innocent years; I played soccer, basketball and baseball, rode my bike everywhere, hung around the Myles Standish Monument and Powder Point Bridge and had a ton of friends. I remember much from those years, especially the friendships.

I had just turned 17 in 1984 when I heard the news that Brett Barclay was killed in a car crash. Brett had been in my 4th and 5th grade classes and on many of my sports teams. He and two other kids that I had grown up with, including a friend who lived just a few doors away from us, had been drinking before wrecking the pickup truck they were in.

Teddy Spalke also lived in my neighborhood, in fact his back yard abutted the yard of the friend who was in the pickup with Brett Barclay. Teddy was 17 when he and another Duxbury student were killed in a car crash a few minutes after leaving a party just 16 months after Brett's crash. Brett and Teddy were but two of 10 people killed in Duxbury crashes in less than two years, most were students and drinking and partying were contributing factors.

I could write about the other kids that I knew who were hurt or killed during that time span, but I think you get the idea. The thing is, they were really good kids who got into situations that they couldn't control. In countless cases, the only difference between many of the kids killed in alcohol related events and the rest of us, is nothing more than



JOHN MCSHEFFREY

pure luck. Last week the residents of Duxbury opted to kiss luck good bye.

Stiffer penalties and better public education have strongly help reduce drinking and driving fatalities involving younger people. In fact since the 1980's, the number fatalities involving underage drivers and alcohol has been cut in half. Awareness efforts by groups like Mothers Against Drunk Driving and Students Against Destructive Decisions along with stricter laws are credited with the drop in the statistics. If you remove or drastically reduce the consequences component, you are left with nothing more than good intentioned preaching.

Following the vote last week, Duxbury Police Chief Matthew Clancy was quoted by WBZ-TV, "The misconception is we're trying to loosen up on dealing with minors and alcohol, which is completely not the case. What's going on is...we're saying that we're going to be stepping up enforcement." Hold on a second as I put on my boots before I trudge into this pile of manure.

Okay, it's human nature to push boundaries, especially with children. If people know that they'd only get a written warning for going 70 MPH in a 40 MPH zone, odds are they're going to drive a bit faster. Another scenario, the high school decides to make attendance for the last class of the day optional. Students are responsible for all work and if a student is caught hanging in the halls they get written up, but there will be no detentions or suspensions. Does anyone believe that attendance and performance will stay the same?

Kids are going to be tempted to drink, but the temptation will be greater if they know that there's only a wrist slap if they get caught. And when kids drink, they drive. With all due respect to the Duxbury Police, there's no way "step upped enforcement" will adequately make up for the lessening of the consequences.

Brett and Teddy were but two of 10 people killed in Duxbury crashes in less than two years, most were students and drinking and partying were contributing factors.

For what it's worth, I see why Duxbury parents supported this. Mom and Dad don't want little Suzie and Chip to be busted and have their chance to get into "Impressive Name University" diminished. What is more important, reducing injuries and deaths associated with teen drunk driving, or having more flexibility to get our kids off the hook? I'm not going to be a hypocrite; if one of my children gets caught in a bad situation, instinct will be to try and help minimize the impact, but there still needs to be strong established boundaries.

Unfortunately, apparently not all parents agree with the concept of having strong rules and repercussions for not following them. Last fall, Safe Harbor Cohasset Coalition put on an event to address youth drug use. A portion of the discussion turned the consequences in school if a student is caught using drugs or alcohol, and the point that many found most disturbing was the comment about the proportion of parents who have been more upset with the school discipline than their child's actions. This is precisely why the action in Duxbury is so abhorrently wrong.

The thought of losing a child in drunk driving accident is almost too difficult to fathom. The thought of losing a child in a drunk driving accident after the town had relaxed laws making teen drinking easier is both crippling and infuriating. As I said, like Cohasset, Duxbury is a beautiful town with lovely homes, stunning coastlines and winding roads. Here's hoping that the similarities do not carry over in the decisions we make in how we protect our children. Safety should always take priority over convenience.

As always, thanks for reading.

— *John McSheffrey has been part of the Cohasset community since 2007 and can be reached at jjmcs@aol.com*

LIBRARY CORNER

Reception for artist Heather Collins

Paul Pratt Memorial Library, 35 Ripley Road, Cohasset. Call 781-383-1348 for more information or visit cohassetlibrary.org.

ART RECEPTION: The South Shore Art Center presents an exhibit of new pastel paintings of Southwest, Maine, Italy and South Shore by local artist Heather Collins through April 30. There will be a display of approximately 30 recent pastel paintings. The artist reception will take place at the Library from 2 to 5 p.m. March 20. Ranging in subject from Georgia O'Keefe's ranch in Abiquiu, New Mexico, to coastal Maine to Lake Como to scenes of the South Shore, Collins' show, "Sightlines" offers images of very different places that have captured her imagination.

LIBRARY BOOK GROUP: Join attendees for coffee and discussion of Celeste Ng's book "Everything I Never Told You" at 10 a.m. March 30. All are welcome.

PERKINS TALKING BOOKS: The library has a Perkins digital talking book player and an assortment of talking books, fiction and nonfiction, for eligible people. People with vision and hearing loss

find the player suitable for their reading needs. People unable to hold a book because of a physical disability find listening to books with the digital player an alternative to print books. Visit the reference desk to learn more about how you can check out a player and talking book cartridges.

LIBRARY ON THE GO: Download e-books with Overdrive, stream movies from Hoopla, learn a foreign language using Pronunciator, read e-magazines from Zinio, and learn a new skill using Lynda.com all on a mobile device. It's free. A library card is needed. Learn more by stopping by the reference desk.

NEW MUSEUM PASSES: Cohasset library cardholders now have access to two new passes. Explore the many properties at the Mass Audubon Wildlife Sanctuaries, Nature Centers, and Museums or gather the gang and have fun at The Hall at Patriot Place. The Community Garden Club of Cohasset has generously donated the pass to the Audubon Sanctuaries. The Friends of the Library is sponsoring the pass to The Hall at Patriot Place. Details of both passes are on our website. Reservations may

be made online or by calling the circulation desk.

MOVIES, MUSIC, AND MORE: Download up to 20 titles of movies, e-books, music, and comics every month from Hoopla, free with a Cohasset library card. Music from the play "Hamilton," the movie "Star Wars: The Force Awakens," David Bowie, Glenn Frey and so much more streams to a computer or mobile device. Explore Hoopla's site at hoopladigital.com/home. Contact the reference librarian for more information.

ONLINE TOOLS: Discover what the Cohasset library card can do by visiting the website cohassetlibrary.org. Learn a new language with Pronunciator, brush up on skills needed in that new job with Lynda.com, or snuggle down with a good book on a rainy or cold day by borrowing an ebooks from Overdrive. Call the reference librarian for help accessing these services.

HOMEBOUND DELIVERY SERVICE: The library is on the road every Tuesday afternoon delivering materials to Cohasset residents of all ages. Call the library at 781-383-1348, and ask for Kristin or Gayle, or send an email to library@cohassetlibrary.org to get started.

LIBRARY KIDS

Barn Babies program Saturday

Paul Pratt Memorial Library, 35 Ripley Road. Call 781-383-1348 for more information or visit our website at: cohassetlibrary.org.

Programs

DROP IN CRAFTS: Between 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Thursdays

MAMASTEPPH: 10:30 a.m. Mondays, March 21 and 28

PUPPET STORY TIME WITH LEIGH AND FRIENDS: 10:30 a.m. March 22
LEGO CLUB: 4-5 p.m.

Mondays, March 28

STORYTIME WITH MRS. MOODY: 10:30 a.m. March 29

Special Events

BARN BABIES: A live animal show: 1, 1:30, 2, 2:30 p.m. March 19. Baby animals will be available for visitors to snuggle, cuddle, and learn about. Register online at cohassetlibrary.org. Space is limited. For more information about the Barn Babies go to barnbabies.com.

EYES ON OWLS; LIVE OWL SHOW: 2 p.m. April

6. Join attendees in the Meeting Room for this up close and personal look at owls. Learn about their habitats, life cycles and how to hoot. Suggested age is 4 and older. Space is limited, so come early. Funded by a grant from the South Shore Music Circus.

1000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN: Accept the challenge. Registration forms and reading logs available in the Children's Room. For more information: 1000books-beforekindergarten.org/1000-books-before-kindergarten-program.

TOWN CLERK

Register to vote in senate primary

The Cohasset town clerk's office, 41 Highland Ave., Cohasset, will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. March 23 for voter registration.

Residents who wish to vote in the April 12 special state primary must

be registered to vote or change party affiliation by that date. Only those not registered to vote in Cohasset or those who have moved from one address in Cohasset to another or wish to change their party

enrollment will need to register.

Voters enrolled as "unenrolled" will remain so after choosing a ballot at the polls. For questions, call the town clerk's office at 781 383-4100, ext. 106.



BE THE BOSS OF WHAT YOUR KIDS WATCH

Parental blocking controls not only prevent your kids from viewing mature content, but also allow you to decide what programs they can watch. Parental controls are available through your TV, cable or satellite provider.

Learn more at theTVboss.org



HEALTH



Shelter director Ashley Davis, pictured with a client, wants everyone to know about the upcoming rabies clinic. COURTESY PHOTO

Calling all pet owners

For South Shore residents, the cost of owning a cat or dog could be just a little less this Spring.

On Sunday April 3rd, the Scituate Animal Shelter, in conjunction with Scituate Animal Control, will host a low cost rabies vaccination clinic at the Shelter, with services provided by Norwell-based Black Pond Veterinary Services. No appointments will be necessary, and each vaccination is just \$15.

Cat rabies vaccinations will be from 9 to 10 a.m., and dog vaccinations from 10 to 11 a.m., on a first come, first served basis. All pets must be leashed or in carriers. Pet owners are encouraged to bring any previous rabies vaccination paperwork that they might have.

At the event, dog owners who would like to turn in their dog's "choke" collars will be provided with a free martingale-style collar,

All pets must be leashed or in carriers. Pet owners are encouraged to bring any previous rabies vaccination paperwork that they might have.

which provides more control over the dog without the choking effect of a slip collar. Canine experts will be on hand to fit each dog.

Additionally, Missing Dogs Massachusetts, a local non profit dedicated to reuniting dog owners with their lost pets, will be offering important information on how to keep your dog safe, and what steps to take should he or she ever go missing.

For information: 781-545-8709 or info@scituateanimalshelter.org

UPDATE

Legal moat surrounds James Island

By Amanda C. Thompson
athompson@wickedlocal.com

"We feel strongly that we have been wronged and treated differently."

— John Steinmetz

Two Cohasset lawyers' quest for a dream home has turned into a nightmare for everyone involved.

In September 2015, the Conservation Commission voted 4-2 to deny an application by John and Jane Steinmetz to build a 7,823-square-foot home on James Island, saying that the home and driveway would come too close to the wetlands (within the 100-foot buffer zone) and could have an adverse environmental impact.

The Steinmetzes, however, wouldn't take no for an answer, feeling that the commission had arrived at its decision unfairly. Environmental, wildlife, and storm water experts had shown time and again that the project would not hurt the environment. So why was it denied?

"We feel strongly that we have been wronged and treated differently," said John Steinmetz.

It's nothing out of the ordinary for an applicant to appeal a project's denial, which Steinmetz is doing at the state and district levels. He's expecting some progress to be made by the Department of Environmental Protection within the next couple of months.

The Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs has said that no environmental impact report is needed for this project. The Coastal Zone Management, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, and Division of Marine Fisheries have all weighed in, and none of them are worried about the project's impact.

But at this stage, getting the big wigs to say it's okay to build on the island is the easy part. Because now, there's litigation going on.

According to Steinmetz, members of the commission acted out of bias and improper influence. In other words, they shut down his project in order to protect the views of their wealthy

friends, despite the testimony of experts and despite the compromises that Steinmetz's consultants had made to further reduce the project's already-negligible environmental impact, he said.

Worse than that, Steinmetz believes that at least one commissioner, then-chairman Jack Creighton, had been advised by Town Counsel to recuse himself from the discussion. Steinmetz claims Creighton chose to lie about that advice in order to remain active on the board and keep the project from getting approved.

The Steinmetzes filed a bevy of lawsuits against the Town, members of the commission who voted against the project, and a Florida landscape architecture firm that produced a rendering of the proposed project, which the couple says was distorted and exaggerated, inflaming opposition to the project.

Most of the claims have already been thrown out. Two remain.

First, there is the matter of Creighton's alleged fraud. In a statement to the Mariner on March 8th, Creighton said, "I categorically deny the charges alleging a conflict of interest or that Town Counsel advised me otherwise. Regarding the decision itself, I would refer you to the 4-2 decision of The Conservation Commission as to the reasons behind the decision."

The memorandum of decision refers to local wetlands regulations, which state, "The Commission may deny permission for any activity within areas under its jurisdiction, if in its judgment, such denial is necessary to preserve the environmental quality of the affected area and uphold the goals and interest of the Bylaw."

In other words, the commission was under no obligation to say "yes" to the

project just because evidence had been presented. If members were still worried about the salt marsh, they were allowed to say "no."

But what Steinmetz wants to know is this: was it really the salt marsh they were worried about?

Then, there is the matter of public records, which Steinmetz has been requesting for six months from Deutsch Williams, the Town's law firm. He's looking for documents that could prove Creighton received advice from Town Counsel that was contrary to what he told the commission.

Creighton and Deutsch Williams have maintained that the advice was given orally and confidentially. Thus, there were no written records documenting the decision, and even if there were, they would be protected by the attorney-client privilege, which can only be waived by the client or by a court order.

Steinmetz, a lawyer himself, still believed there were documents and persisted. He submitted public records requests twice in September and again in January, reaching out to the State Supervisor of Records when the Town did not comply with his requests.

In January, Deutsch Williams admitted that documents existed, but still claimed attorney-client privilege and would not release them.

Steinmetz went back to the Supervisor of Records and eventually secured from Deutsch Williams a list of 45 documents that were being withheld. These include correspondence between Creighton, Town Counsel, and Town officials during the course of Creighton's pursuit of legal advice.

If the client, i.e. the Town of Cohasset, does not wish to waive the attorney-client

privilege, then the only way for Steinmetz to see these documents is through a court order. And one of those may very well be on its way.

This legal action is all covered by the Town's insurance, not taxpayer dollars. As for the challenge of the decision based on its merit alone, the Town does pay to legally defend its position, but things like that are factored in when the budget is prepared; it doesn't cost the taxpayers extra dollars.

As for the Florida design firm, the American Civil Liberties Union is calling the charges against it a "SLAPP suit," which stands for "strategic lawsuits against public participation." SLAPP suits aim to intimidate, punish, or exhaust individuals or groups who are trying to exercise their rights of petitioning and speech.

In support of the design firm's motion to dismiss, the ACLU said, "Unless people are free, and feel free, to express themselves to the government, representative government loses its legitimacy. Accordingly, the right to petition is 'among the most precious of the liberties safeguarded by the Bill of Rights.'"

The firm, enlisted by the Save James Island Protection Group, was engaged in petitioning as a representative of the group and is therefore protected by the anti-SLAPP statute.

Going forward, Steinmetz said he will find a way to get the documents and, ultimately, get the house built, no matter how long it takes – and it could be years. But, said Steinmetz, there's nowhere else he'd rather live.

"It's been a long road," said Steinmetz. "This is messy and expensive, and it's creating a lot of animosity in town. We would prefer peace, but if that can't be reached and our only alternative is to continue litigation, we will do that. We will never give up."

Follow Amanda on Twitter for updates: @MarinerAmandaT

Beacon Hill Roll Call

By Bob Katzen bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

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If you have any questions about this week's report, e-mail bob@beaconhillrollcall.com or call 617-720-1562.

Y = Yes; N = No, NV = No Vote (President rarely votes) * Not every item is voted on by both House and Senate

Volume 41 -
Report No. 10
March 7-11, 2016

Senator	Representative
Garrett J. Bradley	Garrett J. Bradley
617-722-1646	(D-Hingham)
Room 313C	617-722-2520
	Room 479

THE HOUSE AND SENATE. Beacon Hill Roll Call records local senators' and representatives' votes on roll calls from the week of March 7-11.

OPIOID ABUSE PREVENTION (H 4056)

House 155-0, Senate 37-0, approved and sent to Gov. Charlie Baker a bill aimed at reducing the opioid abuse crisis in the Bay State. The measure is designed to reduce the number of opioid pills in circulation by working with many parties involved in the process including schools, doctors, insurance companies and pharmacists. A key provision would require all public schools to have a policy regarding substance abuse prevention, require that students be advised about the dangers of substance abuse and require an annual verbal screening of pupils for substance use disorders. Parents would be allowed to opt their children out of the screening requirement.

Other provisions include limiting initial opioid prescriptions by doctors to a seven-day supply except for chronic pain management, cancer and palliative care; requiring drug manufacturers to create a program to secure, transport and safely dispose of unwanted drugs; establishing a rehabilitation program for registered pharmacists, pharmacy interns and pharmacy technicians who have a substance abuse issue and allowing them to volunteer for the program instead of being subject to disciplinary action; and requiring patients admitted to the emergency room for an overdose to be subject to a detailed substance abuse evaluation within 24 hours before discharge.

Supporters, noting there were 1,256 accidental drug-related deaths last year, said this landmark legislation is a balanced and practical approach that will improve schools' approach to teaching kids about drug prevention and increase access to treatment for those who are addicted. They argued it will save lives and spare the heartache of many families by helping to stem the rising tide of drug addiction and drug-related deaths across the state.

(A "Yes" vote is for the bill.)

Rep. Bruce Ayers	Yes
Rep. Garrett Bradley	Yes
Rep. Thomas Calter	Yes
Rep. James Cantwell	Yes
Rep. Mark Cusack	Yes
Rep. Josh Cutler	Yes
Rep. David DeCoste	Yes
Rep. Angelo D'Emilia	Yes
Rep. Geoff Diehl	Yes
Rep. Michelle DuBois	Yes
Rep. William Galvin	Yes
Rep. Susan Gifford	Yes
Rep. Patricia Haddad	Yes
Rep. Randy Hunt	Yes
Rep. Louis Kafka	Yes
Rep. Ronald Mariano	Yes
Rep. Christopher Markey	Yes
Rep. Matthew Muratore	Yes
Rep. James Murphy	Yes
Rep. William Straus	Yes
Rep. Walter Timilty	Yes
Sen. Michael Brady	Yes
Sen. Viriato deMacedo	Yes
Sen. Brian Joyce	Didn't Vote
Sen. John Keenan	Yes
Sen. Mark Montigny	Yes
Sen. Marc Pacheco	Yes
Sen. Michael Rodriguez	Yes

REGULATE UBER, LYFT AND OTHERS (H 4049)

House 139-16, approved a measure that would regulate Uber, Lyft and other "ride-hailing" companies by establishing a new state agency, Ride For Hire Division, funded by the companies themselves, to oversee all matters li-

censing the companies and drivers, enforcing penalties and all other issues. A key provision requires drivers to pass both an internal background check by the company and a background check by the state. Drivers' records cannot contain any crimes of violence, sexual abuse, DUI, hit and run, attempting to evade the police, driving with a suspended or revoked license or have felony robbery within the past seven years. In addition, anyone with one major traffic violation or three minor traffic violations within three years would be ineligible to drive.

Other provisions include requiring all vehicles to undergo a standard annual inspection for passenger cars and a more in-depth commercial safety inspection; prohibiting companies from picking up and dropping off passengers at Logan Airport, the Boston Convention Center, cab stands, from street hails; prohibiting surge pricing in weather emergencies; and requiring drivers to carry certain levels of auto insurance.

Supporters said these regulations were compiled after extensive input from both the ride-hailing and taxi industries. They said the new rules will foster growth and competition while protecting consumers.

Opponents were divided into two groups. Supporters of Uber and Lyft said the regulations hurt the consumer by limiting consumer choice and restricting competition. Supporters of the taxi industry said the regulations are minimal, do not level the playing field and will do nothing to help cab drivers who have seen much of their business taken away by these new companies.

(A "Yes" vote is for the bill. A "No" vote is against it.)

Rep. Bruce Ayers	Yes
Rep. Garrett Bradley	Yes
Rep. Thomas Calter	Yes
Rep. James Cantwell	Yes
Rep. Mark Cusack	Yes
Rep. Josh Cutler	Yes
Rep. David DeCoste	No
Rep. Angelo D'Emilia	Yes
Rep. Geoff Diehl	No
Rep. Michelle DuBois	Yes
Rep. William Galvin	Yes
Rep. Susan Gifford	Yes
Rep. Patricia Haddad	Yes
Rep. Randy Hunt	No
Rep. Louis Kafka	Yes
Rep. Ronald Mariano	Yes
Rep. Christopher Markey	Yes
Rep. Matthew Muratore	Yes
Rep. James Murphy	Yes
Rep. William Straus	Yes
Rep. Walter Timilty	Yes

BAN ON BUSINESS AT LOGAN AIRPORT AND BOSTON CONVENTION CENTER (H 4048)

House 37-118, rejected an amendment that would have allowed Lyft, Uber and other ride-hailing companies to pick up and drop off passengers at Logan Airport and the Boston Convention Center. Without the amendment, the bill would ban the companies from those two locations until August 1, 2021.

Amendment supporters said it is not fair to ban these companies from these two busy locations while allowing taxis to pick up and drop off passengers there.

Amendment opponents said the ban is part of a balanced bill that is aimed at being fair to both sides.

(A "Yes" vote is for the amendment. A "No" vote is against it.)

Rep. Bruce Ayers	No
Rep. Garrett Bradley	No

Rep. Thomas Calter No
Rep. James Cantwell No
Rep. Mark Cusack No
Rep. Josh Cutler No
Rep. David DeCoste Yes
Rep. Angelo D'Emilia Yes
Rep. Geoff Diehl Yes
Rep. Michelle DuBois No
Rep. William Galvin No
Rep. Susan Gifford Yes
Rep. Patricia Haddad No
Rep. Randy Hunt Yes
Rep. Louis Kafka No
Rep. Ronald Mariano No
Rep. Christopher Markey No
Rep. Matthew Muratore Yes
Rep. James Murphy No
Rep. William Straus No
Rep. Walter Timilty No

IMPROVE PATIENT CONFIDENTIALITY (S 2138)

Senate 30-5, approved and sent to the House a bill that would ensure that confidential healthcare information is given only to the patient being treated and not to other family members who are on the same health insurance plan.

Supporters said many people avoid medical or psychiatric care because they fear that confidential information will be provided to their spouse, child or parents who are also on the same plan. They argued that this proposal would encourage people to seek care for many problems including sexually transmitted infections (STI), substance abuse, depression, domestic violence and other conditions a patient might wish to withhold from family members.

Some opponents said this system would be very costly for health insurance companies to implement. Others said the person who is paying the premiums has a right to know the kind and cost of procedures his or her family members are receiving. Some said the measure would allow minors and adults covered under their parents' insurance to be able to get procedures, such as an abortion, without prenatal knowledge or consent.

(A "Yes" vote is for the bill. A "No" vote is against it.)

Sen. Michael Brady	Yes
Sen. Viriato deMacedo	No
Sen. Brian Joyce	Didn't Vote
Sen. John Keenan	Yes
Sen. Mark Montigny	Yes
Sen. Marc Pacheco	Yes
Sen. Michael Rodriguez	Yes

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

THREE NEW REPRESENTATIVES SWORN IN - The Democrats increased their lopsided majority in the House, which now is comprised of 125 Democrats and 34 Republicans, when three new Democratic state representatives were sworn into office last week. All three won special elections to fill seats vacant by the resignation of a legislator: Rep. Gerard Cassidy (D-Brockton) filled the seat of Democrat Michael Brady; Rep. Stephan Hay (D-Fitchburg) replaced Democrat Stephen DiNatale and Rep. Tom Walsh (D-Peabody) took over from Republican Leah Cole. Walsh served as a state representative from 1987 to 1995. Brady resigned after he was elected to the Senate in a special election to fill the seat of the late Sen. Thomas Kennedy. DiNatale resigned when he was elected mayor of Fitchburg and Cole resigned to pursue her nursing career.

During the week of March 7-11, the House met for a total of nine hours and 9 minutes and the Senate met for a total of five hours and 18 minutes.

CANDIDATE ANNOUNCEMENT

Gill joins race for Senate

First-time political candidate Stephen Gill has announced his run for State Senate representing the Plymouth & Norfolk District.

Gill, 47 is a local attorney and veteran who has served in combat zones in Kuwait and Afghanistan and has deep roots on the South Shore.

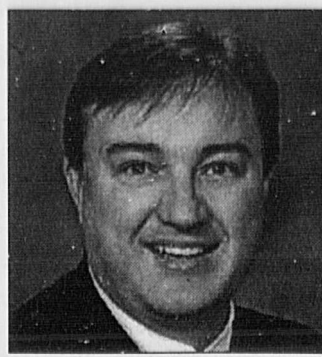
A former Weymouth homeowner, Gill said his name appears on the town's veterans' memorial brick walkway alongside that of his father, a WWII veteran. The youngest of nine, Gill grew up in Hull and now lives in Marshfield where his two children attend Marshfield public schools. Gill's family is from Hingham and he has many relatives in Weymouth, Hingham, Hull, Cohasset, Scituate, Marshfield and Duxbury, he said. In addition to his military service, he also operates his own small law firm in Scituate.

Gill recently declared his

intent to run for Senate, during his grass-roots effort to get on the ballot for the Republican Primary April 12.

"It was wonderful to meet so many great folks while collecting signatures," Gill said. "Listening to people's thoughts and concerns about the current political climate and the challenges facing people in this district really hammered home just how turned-off voters have become with politics as usual, and how critical it is that we elect strong, reasonable people who can serve effectively by working across the political aisle with honor and dignity."

While serving as Deputy Secretary and General Counsel for Massachusetts Department of Veterans' Services under the Patrick administration, Gill said he demonstrated his ability to work with the Legislature and municipal leaders of both parties on



Stephen Gill

important issues affecting veterans.

"I'd like to see more veterans elected to public office because we understand the need for mutual respect when working to achieve a common goal," Gill said. "I hope to bring my experience as a veteran and an attorney to my work on behalf of the people of the South Shore."

Gill is a Lieutenant Commander in the U.S. Navy Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps Selected Reserve* and a former Special Assistant United States Attorney.

POLITICS

O'Connor discusses the opioid crisis

As a lifelong Weymouth resident, State Senate Patrick O'Connor said he has witnessed firsthand the tragic effects of the opioid crisis.

Statewide levels of opioid-related deaths are gradually increasing, and the South Shore holds some of the most alarming statistics in the state, he noted.

"I have seen and continue to see my fair share of Weymouth High classmates struggling with addiction, and since then, too many good people have fallen victim to this epidemic."

O'Connor said his first

order as Town Council President in 2015 was to establish a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Committee for Weymouth.

"I believe intervention must be as personal and community-based as possible in order to have the greatest overall effect."

O'Connor said he was grateful to participate in the development of the Opioid Bill while working at the State House. This bill, which was passed by both the House and the Senate, limits prescriptions, reinforces recovery, increases punishment for distribution, and educates

minors to the dangers of opiates," he said.

"As your next State Senator, I would direct my efforts towards tackling this devastating problem that is indiscriminately killing an entire generation. I have seen the crippling effects of the epidemic in my neighborhood, my school, and my community. I am ready to confront the issues from a legislative seat and help bring this tragedy to an end."

State Senate candidate Patrick O'Connor is a Weymouth resident and President of the Weymouth Town Council.

LETTER OF ENDORSEMENT

Plumbers & Gasfitters Local 12 endorse O'Connor

The following endorsement letter was sent to State Senate candidate Patrick O'Connor.

It is with great pleasure the membership of Plumbers Local 12 unanimously and

enthusiastically endorses you for State Senate.

The membership recognizes your unwavering commitment to the hard-working men and women of Weymouth. Your honest, pragmatic and hopeful insight into our community's problems and needs and your willingness to examine the issues and listen closely to

the public's questions and concerns sets you apart from other candidates' expected techniques and talk.

I am writing today to express our support for your campaign.

Harry Brett

Business manager, secretary-treasurer Plumbers & Gasfitters Local 12 Boston

POLITICS

Gannon looking to address veterans and senior issues

Hingham Selectman and State Senate candidate Paul Gannon recently voiced his concern for future planning for two key constituencies — veterans and the growing population of seniors.

With more than 400,000 veterans currently residing in Massachusetts, and the number of veterans ages 17 to 44 expected to increase from 15 to 25 percent of the veteran population, we clearly will face an in-flux of those seeking state services. Gannon stressed we must start planning now for how we will deliver those services.

"As Massachusetts residents return to our state from military service, and join the ranks

of existing veterans, it is critically important that we are prepared to provide appropriate services," said Gannon. "When I grew up we always had a healthy respect for those who served. I am very proud of my record in support of our veterans when I previously served as state representative, and I assure you that if elected senator my support of our veterans would be unwavering. We cannot fail those who fought to protect our freedom and our way of life."

Gannon also stressed the need for planning for a future where most of us will live longer. By 2030, the 65-and-over population will represent 21 percent of

the state's population compared to just 14 percent in 2010. Much of that growth will be on the South Shore.

"There are many wonderful programs in place for seniors today," Gannon said. "I am concerned about adequate staffing and budgeting when the number of seniors increase. We need to start thinking how we are going to address this issue rather than wait until it is upon us."

Gannon is a former prosecutor now with his own law practice. He served as a state representative from South Boston before moving to Hingham eight years ago.

POLITICS

Meschino endorsed by EMILY's List

Joan Meschino, a non-profit executive and candidate for State Senate has been endorsed by EMILY's List — the nation's largest resource for women in politics. EMILY's List has a proven record of success active across Massachusetts, including support of the campaigns of Attorney General Maura Healey, Treasurer Deb Goldberg, Congresswoman Katherine Clark, and US Senator Elizabeth Warren.

Meschino is the only woman running in a crowded field of candidates for the Plymouth & Norfolk district, which includes Cohasset,

Duxbury, Hingham, Hull, Marshfield, Norwell, Scituate, and Weymouth. Last week, Meschino became the first candidate to qualify for the ballot, and she led the field of Democratic candidates in fundraising cash-on-hand as of the last finance reporting period.

"I am very excited to have EMILY's List supporting my campaign for State Senate," Meschino said. Every day, I'm out meeting voters across the district, knocking on doors, and talking about the issues that matter to residents of the South Shore. As a former selectman and non-profit executive,

I will be a tireless advocate for our communities as we work to combat the opioid epidemic, invest in education, and develop comprehensive strategies to address sea level rise and climate change."

Meschino is a lifelong South Shore resident and lives in Hull with her husband, John. In addition to being a former Hull Selectman, Meschino is currently a member of Metropolitan Beaches Commission and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council. Most recently, she served as Executive Director for the Massachusetts Applesseed Center for Law and Justice.

POLITICS

Cook skipping special Senate election

Senate candidate Brian Cook announced March 9 that he will forgo the upcoming special election for the recently vacated Plymouth and Norfolk State Senate seat and will instead focus his campaign on the general election, which will take place in the fall.

"Having talked with my family and supporters, as well as many of the residents of our community, I have decided to focus my campaign for the Massachusetts State Senate in the fall election cycle rather than run in an abbreviated and shortened Special Election," said Cook.

"The South Shore is one of the most interesting and independent areas of our Commonwealth and the residents of our communities are known for thoroughly evaluating candidates and their positions in order to make well informed decisions, so I intend to spend the fall

election cycle reaching out to those voters and sharing with them my vision and priorities for our district."

The Plymouth and Norfolk district includes the towns of Cohasset, Duxbury, Hingham, Hull, Marshfield, Norwell, Scituate and Weymouth.

"I've spent a significant part of my life working to make our community the best it could be, from developing and building recreational facilities for our kids and families, to helping create a Maritime School that gives people access to our ocean, and successfully collaborating on the re-opening of Legion Field in Weymouth. I believe that having the opportunity to share my experience and commitment to our district with the voters will earn their support and that is exactly what I am going to do throughout the upcoming fall election cycle."

CANDIDATES CORNER

Meschino campaign kick off set March 29

Joan Meschino will be formally kicking off her campaign for State Senate on Tuesday, March 29 from 6-8 p.m. The campaign kickoff event will be held at the Nantasket Beach Resort located at 45 Hull Shore Drive in Hull. Admission is complimentary.

Campaign volunteers sought for Team O'Connor

Patrick O'Connor's campaign for State Senate is energized and looking for volunteers to knock doors, make phone calls, hold signs, and do office work at the headquarters in Weymouth.

"This campaign is made up of hardworking men and women from across the district who want to bring change to Beacon Hill," said Patrick O'Connor, who serves

as Weymouth's Town Council President.

"Whether you are a Democrat, Republican, or Independent, we welcome you to join our campaign, work to make the difference we want to see in this state, and have some fun."

O'Connor, who also served as Bob Hedlund's Legislative Director at the State House for eight years, said volunteers should go to the campaign's website www.OConnorForSenate.com, call 781-626-4031 or stop by the office at 777 Broad Street to help the campaign out.

Gannon campaign update

Senate candidate Paul Gannon said he was pleased to participate in the Democratic candidate forum sponsored by the Hanover/Norwell Business Council on March 10.

"I enjoyed meeting and listening to the members of our

district's business community and was happy to remind them I am the only candidate that has voted to reduce taxes when I served in the Legislature," Gannon said. "As the owner of a small business myself, I understand their concerns, and support many of their issues."

Visibility and volunteer opportunities for Gannon

Senate candidate Paul Gannon urges supporters to participate in the several town caucuses, town meetings and town elections that are coming up. Those willing to help with visibility for the Gannon campaign at these events should contact steve@GannonforSenate.com.

The campaign is also looking for volunteers to distribute lawn and house signs. There are request for signs throughout the eight



At a recent fundraiser at Widow's Walk Country Club, Senate candidate Paul Gannon shows his support for Mary Kelly O'Toole who is running for Mayor for the Scituate St. Patrick's Day Parade. COURTESY PHOTO

towns and many hands make light work, Gannon said. Volunteers can email steve@GannonforSenate.com to help distribute signs or request a sign for your home or business.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

The following question was posed to the candidates for State Senate for the Plymouth and Norfolk district

What is the single most important issue impacting the district today?

And if you're elected to the Senate what will be your plan of action to address it?

The candidates' responses will be published in next week's issue.

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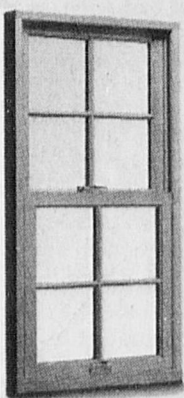
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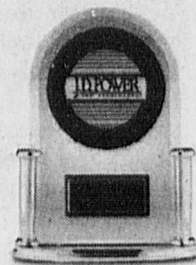
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SPORTS

MORE INSIDE

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■ Gun Ownership, B8-B11
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QUESTIONS? Contact Sports Editor William Wassersug at 781-837-4577 or wwassersug@wickedlocal.com.

SPORTS NOTES

Send Your Stuff

William Wassersug is the Sports Editor for the Cohasset Mariner. Please send your story ideas, photos to wwassersug@wickedlocal.com and follow him on Twitter @scifisportsguy

YOUTH BASEBALL

CYBSA registration

Spring is around the corner, and Cohasset Youth Baseball and Softball Association's online

Registration for the 2016 season is now open but there is a \$50 late fee, as regular registration ended March 1. All registration closes March 25.

The registration process is available by visiting www.CYBSA.net

If you plan to register a player, please do it soon, as cooperation in registering players in a timely manner is greatly appreciated as it allows the CYBSA to establish rosters and order equipment and uniforms to be ready for Opening Day.

Please direct questions to Jen Miller at jencoakleymiller@mac.com or 704-609-1267.

TENNIS

Open registration

This summer will mark the 24th season for the South Shore Tennis Association welcoming players from all over the south shore.

Adult Tennis Leagues (Doubles and Mixed) run from the week of June 6 through August 20 (12 weeks); Singles Leagues run from May 22 through September 18 (16 weeks).

Open registration night will be held on Thursday April 7, 6-8 p.m. at the Pembroke Library Conference Room.

The Adult mail in registration deadline for singles players is May 2.

Adult singles players play in a "leveled" group with a flexible schedule of matches.

The Doubles leagues play at the Marshfield or Rockland High School. Men's Doubles: Monday evenings, 6 p.m. until dark. Women's Doubles: Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, 6 p.m. until dark. Mixed Doubles: Saturday and Monday mornings, 8:30 to 10 a.m.

For more information, visit the SSTA website at www.southshoretennis.com, email at info@southshoretennis.com, or contact Sharon Reed-Eramian 781-826-2581

MASSASOIT

Athletics Open House March 23

On Wednesday, March 23 from 5:30-7 p.m., the Massasoit Athletics Department will host an Open House for area

SEE NOTES, B2

POPPIN' OFF

Some random thoughts

A few random thoughts about winter, spring and more

Is it just me, or did the winter season seem to fly by really quickly this year?

It might just be a comparison to last year when we were still buried in snow about this time, a thought that came to mind when looking at a few photos from last year



WILLIAM WASSERSUG

when lacrosse and baseball were still in the gym.

In another shot I took in Scituate, their lacrosse team was running in

shorts in at least waist-high or higher snow.

Looking out the window now, I see rain and not a bit of snow on the ground and can picture a baseball season that might actually start after teams have had a few practices outdoors.

I can't totally explain it, but even hockey games didn't feel as cold this year as they did in the past.

I am ready for the

spring.

Can't wait to see what the season is going to bring, considering the spring has always been especially strong in Cohasset.

One last congratulations to the boys basketball team for a great season.

No, the Sectional Final didn't work out the way they hoped, but the Skippers gave it a great shot.

I was impressed with the way they kept battling to the end against a very good Cathedral team.

The future is bright for these guys.

They have young talent coming back, including Chase Bomeisler, who improved immensely through the season and can easily be a centerpiece

SEE THOUGHTS, B2

BOYS BASKETBALL

GAME OVER

Boys hoop falls in Sectional Final

By William Wassersug
wwassersug@wickedlocal.com

Getting to the Division 4 South Sectional Final was a huge accomplishment for the No. 13 seeded Cohasset boys basketball team.

Beating the No. seed St. John Paul II was a huge accomplishment, as was beating two more higher seeded teams on the road to get to the final.

That said, seeding aside, most in the know felt Cathedral was probably the best

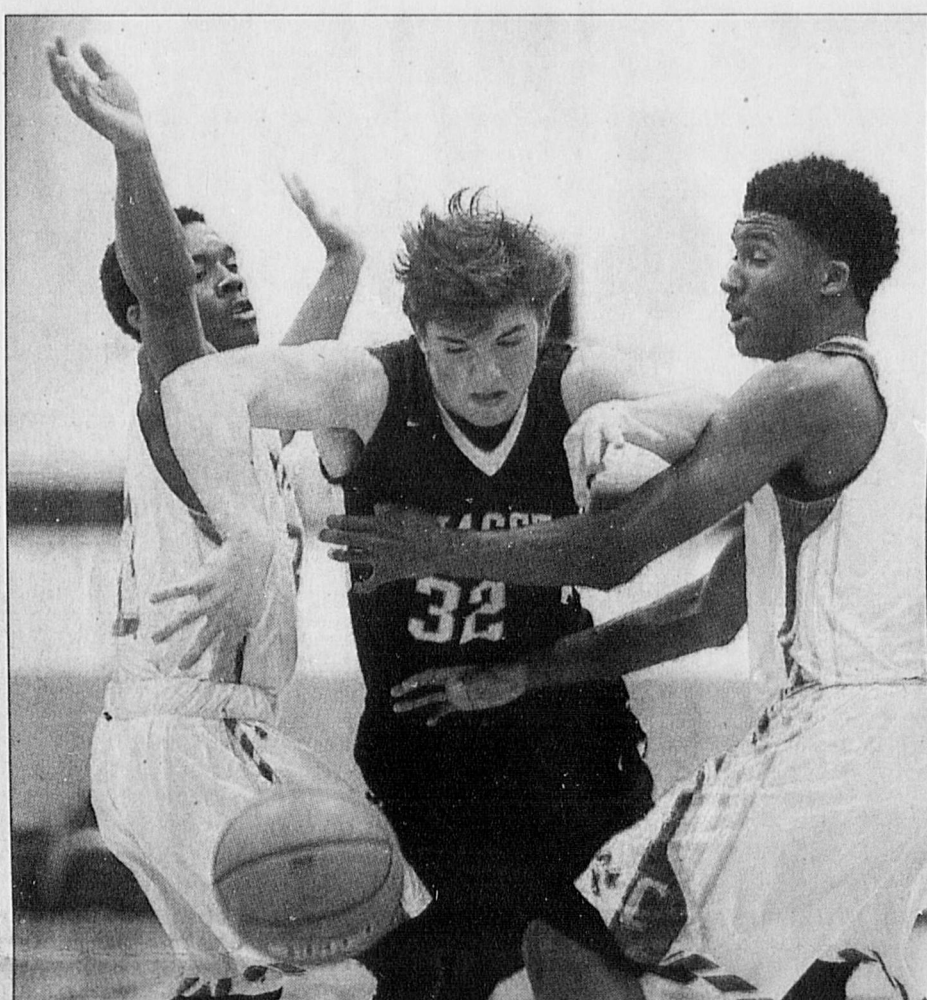
actual team in the bracket and if Cohasset was going to have any chance of an upset, it was going to have to play just about its best game of the season.

Unfortunately, Cohasset wasn't able to play its very best, and in the end, Cathedral beat the Skippers 51-39 Friday March 11 at Curry College to advance to the Div. 4 State Semifinal at the TD Garden this week.

It wasn't a matter of

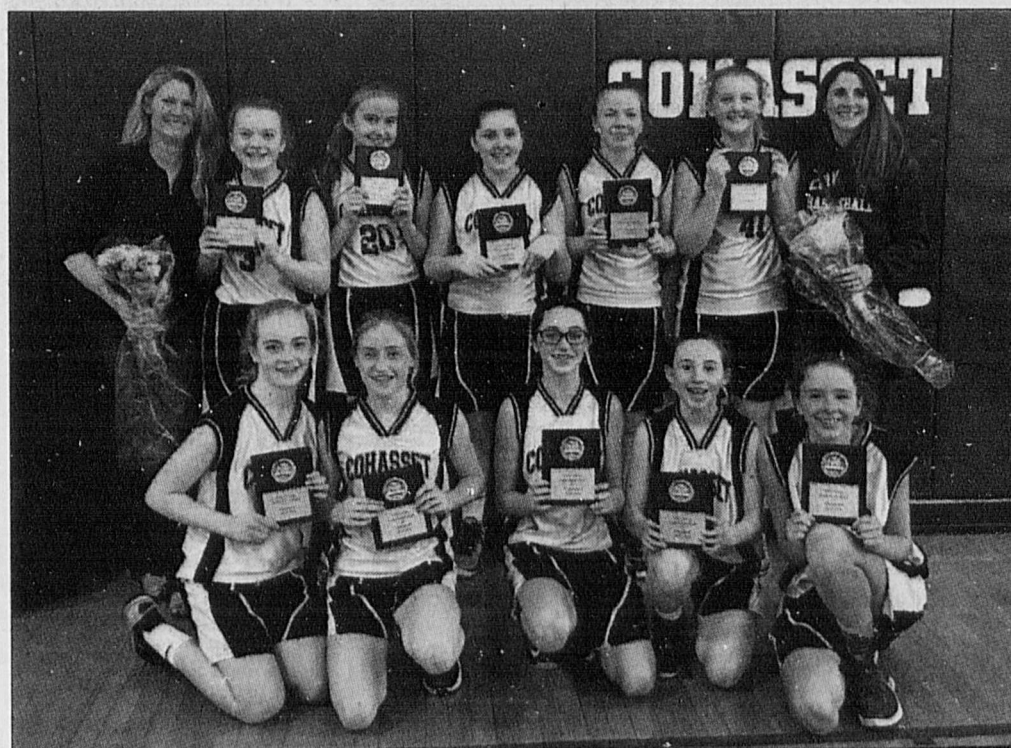
SEE FINAL, B3

Cohasset's Alex Norton (right) tries to bulldoze his way through Cathedral's Julian Howell and Trevor Lynch but is called for a travel during first quarter action of the Division 4 south final at Curry College on Thursday, March 11, 2016. WICKED LOCAL STAFF PHOTO/ROBIN CHAN



YOUTH BASKETBALL

League champions



The Cohasset Seventh Grade girls travel basketball team is, front row: Kate Cunning, Anna Grech, Caroline Donohue, Elise Regan, Morgan Galvin. Second row: Kelly Grech, Tiffany Rosher, Megan Bowen, Emma Ciffrino, Caroline Paterson, Ava Doherty, Francine Galvin. COURTESY PHOTO/KIMBERLY ALBANESE

Seventh graders win OCL title

Congratulations to the Cohasset Seventh Grade girls travel basketball team for winning it all.

Playing on their home court at CMHS, the girls beat rival, Marshfield, 23-15 in the

Old Colony League Championship Game on Sunday.

Under the coaching guidance of Kelly Grech, Francine Galvin, and Brian Desjourdy, the team entered the playoffs as the No. 1 seed

and with a regular season record of 12-1, their only loss to Marshfield.

The girls worked hard all season and consistently showed great teamwork. We look forward to watching you next year as you defend your title.

BOYS HOCKEY

Adding to the list

Andrew Rosano

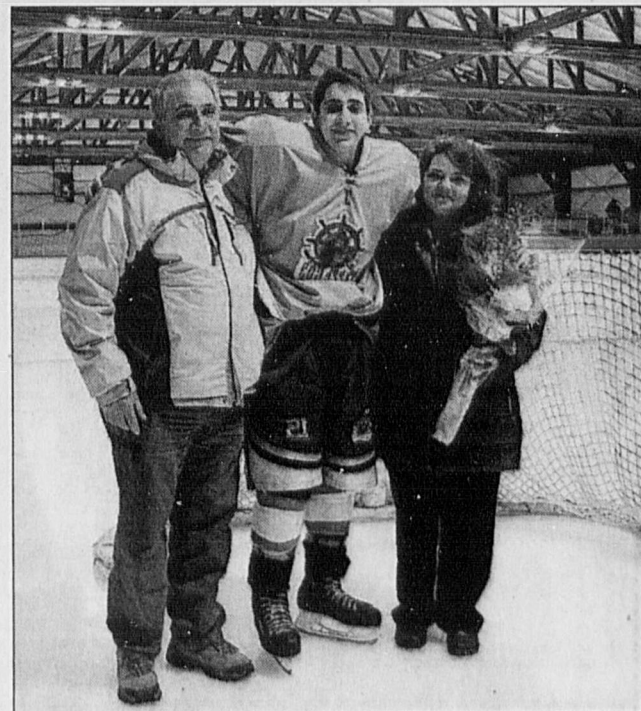
In last week's Cohasset Mariner, in an article about Cohasset coach Phil Mahoney's thoughts on the team's seniors, Andrew Rosano was inadvertently omitted. Here are the coach's thoughts.

Andrew Rosano: A disciplined forward with the ability to play all three positions up front. He

never stopped working and always pushed himself to get better. A great attitude on the ice and in the locker room.

Rosano finished the season with 2 goals and 2 assists, and was honored with the team's 'Ducky Tie' given to the player of the game, after a 9-0 win over St. John Paul II, Dec. 16.

He was on the team for two years.



Cohasset's Andrew Rosano with his parents Mario and Gina on Senior Night. COURTESY PHOTO



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PLYMOUTH PILGRIMS BASEBALL



Wally the Green Monster, Gobbles and Paws, the Pawtucket Red Sox mascot, greet fans as they enter Forges Field for Red Sox Night. WICKED LOCAL PHOTO/DENISE MACCAFERRI

Hot stove up and running

Inaugural event brings together baseball lovers for a good cause

By David Wolcott
dwolcott@wickedlocal.com

PLYMOUTH - The Red Sox are back in Florida getting ready for the new season, and practices for the high school sports season start Monday. It's time to dust off the glove and cleats and start thinking about baseball once again.

The pre-season for the Plymouth Pilgrims officially gets cooking at 6 p.m. Saturday at Cabby Shack with the inaugural Hot Stove Dinner and Silent Auction to raise money for the New England Collegiate Baseball League organization as well as other worthy charitable causes.

There're no doubt that the night will be both fun as well as interesting with WEEI radio personality Mikey Adams serving as Master of Ceremonies and

Boston Red Sox television analyst Steve Lyons flying in to be a guest speaker at the event.

"It should be a fun evening and we are really looking forward to kicking off the new season in the right way," Pilgrim President Dan Shaughnessy said. "We want people to come out for the night and have a great time. This team belongs to the community and we want everyone to feel like they own a small part of it. The Pilgrims are Plymouth's baseball team."

Two courageous people will also be remembered and honored at the event. Carver native Dan Grimes lost his battle with lung cancer last March, while Lyons' grandson, Anthony Lyons, is fighting a battle against Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia.

As for the team itself, new General Manager

Benjamin Fey and team Manager Greg Zackrison have helped put together a team of top college prospects that hopefully will challenge once again for the NECBL Southern Division title. They'll be looking to improve upon 2015's 20-22 record that put them fifth in the division after winning it in the summer of 2014.

"I'm really excited about the product that Ben and Greg have been able to put together this season," Shaughnessy said. "Our roster is pretty much all set, with maybe a change or two before the season, and we think we can challenge again for the title."

It will be an almost new team that takes the diamond at Forges Field this summer with the notable exception of pitchers Vincenzo Aiello (Rider University) as well as Plymouth North product

Brian Christian, who is now a sophomore at Northeastern.

There will be a definite Massachusetts flavor to the team this summer with Christian, Austin Bachelor (Peabody, Boston College), Jack Connelly (Raynham, Notre Dame), Thomas Lane (Georgetown, Boston College), Timothy Salvatore (Hopkinton, Virginia Tech) and Matthew O'Neil (East Longmeadow, URI) all set to play with the Pilgrims.

The evening will also feature live and silent auctions with many great, sports-related items up for bid.

Tickets to the event cost \$50, and donations are always accepted. They can be purchased via the Pilgrims website (www.pilgrimsbaseball.com), in person at Shaughnessy Rentals in Camelot Park or at the door on the night of the event.

COLLEGE LACROSSE

Jaffe honored at Pfeiffer

Former Skipper star sets school record

Cohasset's Whitney Jaffe, a former Skipper star, was recently named Pfeiffer University female athlete of the week.

In a 15-5 win over Erskine on Friday, March 11, Jaffe set a new school single game record with 10 assists, beating the previous

record of nine, which was set back in 2006. Jaffe scored one goal, scooped up two ground balls and caused two turnovers in the victory.

Melissa Andersen handed out nine helpers against Molloy in 2006 to set the previous record.

THOUGHTS

From Page B1

of a team that can be very good next year.

Younger players like Sam Lelio, Liam O'Connell and Thatcher Stone and Tommy Carrabes all chipped in and learned and improved this season and can form the backbone next season.

Of course, for the team to continue the success, the young players on the team will need to continue to work hard in the off-season.

As an editor and photographer I'd like to thank the team for playing with the type of emotion and effort that translated into a lot of cool photos. I love some of the shots from Friday's game that are in this paper.

Congratulations to Meg Rosano and Emily Rosano for being named to the South Shore League All-Star team and for helping the girls basketball team to another really strong season.

I have been watching Cohasset girls basketball for a while now, and really enjoyed watching the way this group played with such intensity.

Like the boys, this team is looking good for the future.

They have a number of young players who learned on the fly and will be back and ready to roll.

This really was a good season for Cohasset sports.

Both basketball and hockey teams made the tournament. The wrestling team took a group of younger kids and improved, and sent two grapplers, Cole Sullivan and Sean Mavilia to All-States.

There was also a State Champion swimmer in Julia Klier.

I know there were more great performances this winter, but don't have space to mention them all, so great job to everyone.

One thing I would still like to see in basketball

is some new rules to cut down timeouts and fouls at the end of games.

I don't know exactly how it should be done, or if I am right about this though, but when I'm at games, especially the type where a team is down by 10 or 12 points in the last few minutes, its timeout, foul, foul, timeout, foul, foul, foul and etc. You get the point.

I understand the importance of free throws, but have always thought that those end of games are so slow and clunky and without any real flow that is sometimes drives me crazy.

Again, this is just my opinion, and the best answer to my question has actually been addressed by some levels in simple fashion - a running clock - at least partially. Maybe stop the clock for the first foul or two in the last few minutes, then run it the rest of the way, and by all means, cut a timeout or two too.

Maybe turn a second or third foul into a technical and give the fouled team possession back after the free throw. Set a timer on the free throws and after 30 seconds or so, turn the clock back on.

Without making changes, the one thing I love to see when teams start fouling is the fouled players making the free throws. If they all did that, it wouldn't be a strategy anymore. A four-point shot from midcourt might be fun, although it would most likely destroy the game.

I can say the same thing about football. Cut a timeout or two.

I'm probably wrong about it, and this is not any type of complaint about basketball, just one of those thoughts that pop into the head at some point. This may have come from listening to the end of a Celtics game in the car that had too many commercials from timeouts and fouls.

Just sayin'

NOTES

From Page B1

student-athletes in the Asia Field House, Room FH 205, on the Brockton campus.

Massasoit Athletics provides a full range of NJCAA teams, including soccer, basketball, baseball and softball and over the last two years the department has expanded to add track & field, cross country and golf.

Attendees on the 23rd will have the opportunity to view Massasoit's athletic facilities, speak to coaches, current student-athletes and administrators and learn some of the reasons why Massasoit is such a great place for students to begin their pursuit of higher education.

Over the years, the Massasoit Warriors have earned numerous New England

and State Championships, having participated in NJCAA National Championships, capturing three National Titles in the program's history.

Massasoit Athletics is proud to provide students with high-quality athletic, academic and social experiences to help them succeed both on the court or field and in the classroom.

Those interested in attending, should fill out an RSVP at www.massasoit.edu/athleticsOH or contact the Athletics Office at 508-588-9100 x1431 or email one of the following administrators:

Julie Mulvey, Athletics Director - jmulvey@massasoit.mass.edu

Roly Landers, Associate Athletics Director - rlanders@massasoit.mass.edu

Ben Warnick, Assistant Athletics Director - bwarnick@massasoit.mass.edu

CAMP, SCHOOL and ACTIVITIES DIRECTORY

SUMMER CAMP EXPERIENCES TEACH LIFE LESSONS

By Lucy Norvell, Director of Development and Communications, ACA New England

A child's experiences at day and overnight camp help shape who he or she will become in the future. Campers practice and develop skill sets necessary for friendship, leadership, and community citizenship. Life-enriching lessons await your camper or college-age counselor this summer at camp, as they learn to:

Bounce back from hardship and gain resilience
Campers and young staff are coached through tough situations to handle problems with positive attitudes and to learn how to be part of the solution.

Make and keep friends
Campers build and gain the social skills to meet new people and to create social networks—in person.

Move more and embrace a healthy lifestyle
Campers enjoy a far more active lifestyle than the school year often allows. They enjoy different activities such as swimming,

climbing, and individual and competitive sports. Campers are moving all day long, even as they walk from activity to activity or to the dining hall!

Assess risks and examine possible results as a decision-maker
Campers learn to weigh their options and to make decisions as individuals and as part of a group. They take responsibility for the consequences—positive or negative.

Work as part of a team
Team building exercises strengthen communication and collaboration with others. Collaborative skills are highly valued in college and in the workplace.

Live with others who are different
There is not a better way to get to know a person from a different ethnic and cultural background than to share a camp experience.

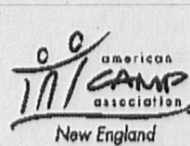
Be more patient and understanding
Campers develop empathy and learn to accept others' points of views when working, playing and living together so closely.

Resolve a conflict
Campers learn key social skills of negotiation and compromise.

Be more self-reliant and confident
Campers are encouraged to be as independent as possible, to better themselves in a variety of ways and to be proud of who they are.

Explore their own creativity
Camp environments foster creativity throughout the day. Group and team building activities require creative thinking and much of camp programming—formal and informal—encourages campers to think and act creatively, whether they're making jewelry, making music, or making up a new game or adventure.

The American Camp Association, New England—the region's hub for all things summer camp—supports camp experiences, educates camp professionals & staff, consults on camp best practices and advocates for camp quality. For additional camp information and resources in CT, MA, ME, NH, RI & VT, visit www.acanewengland.org or call (781) 541-6080.



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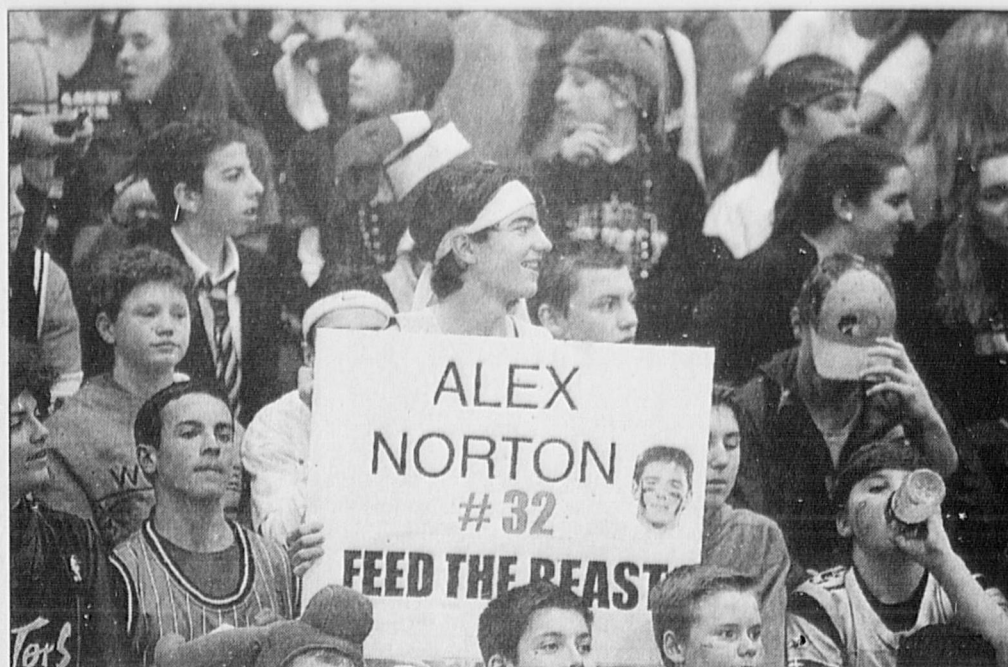


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Coach Bo Ruggiero, Christian Hanke, Alex Norton, John Paul Adams, and Nicholas Rosen pose for a photo with the Division 4 south finalist trophy. WICKED LOCAL STAFF PHOTO/ROBIN CHAN



Freshman Lado Dserelov holds up a sign supporting Alex Norton while he was cheering on the Skippers at the South Final against Cathedral at Curry College on Friday, March 11, 2016. WICKED LOCAL STAFF PHOTO/ROBIN CHAN

FINAL

From Page B1

Cohasset playing poorly or a lack of effort, but more a combination of shots not falling and an opponent that was able to jump to a big lead and take the Skippers out of their game.

Cathedral shot its way to a 9-2 lead that became an 18-4 advantage by making six three-pointers in the first quarter. The only Cathedral points not on threes in the first quarter were on a buzzer beat on a putback on a missed three.

Cathedral led 20-6 after one quarter and took a 29-14 lead into the half.

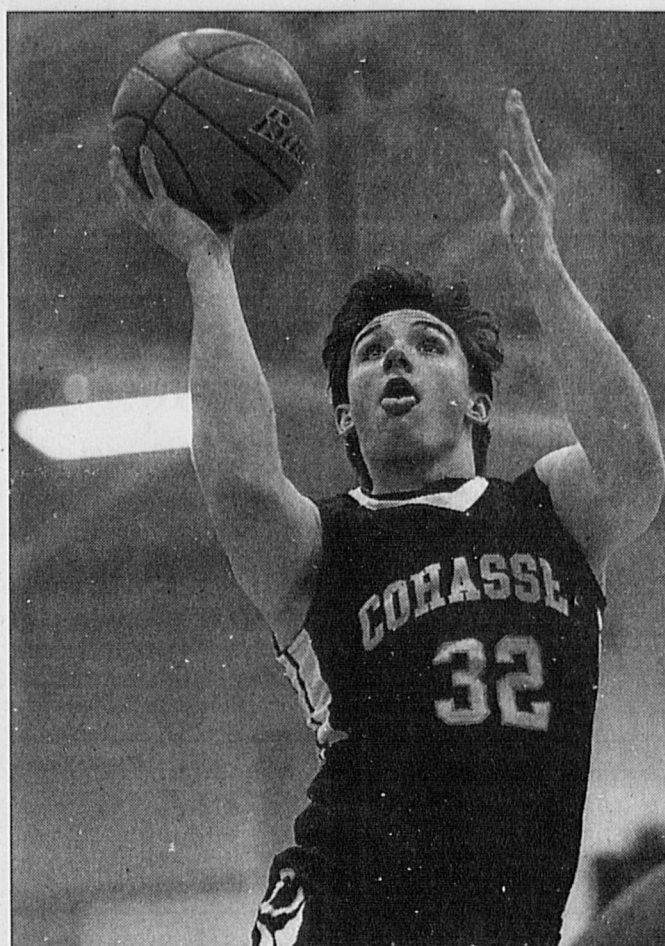
"We did not play what I would consider one of our stellar games," Cohasset coach Bo Ruggiero said. "The Cathedral team, very talented, very quick, a lot of basketball players had a lot to do with that, but we had a lot of unforced offensive errors. In the first period they made six three's in a row and on six of seven ball possessions they scored. Then they hit a shot at the buzzer. That's 20 points in the first quarter. They only scored 51 in the whole game, so we held them to 10 points in the next three periods. Unfortunately this was not the best night for us to be missing shots that we've made all year. We're really young. Hopefully we've learned from the experience."

The Skippers tried to make a late run, and closed the game on a 9-3 run on the strength of a pair of threes from Liam O'Connell, who finished with 12 points.

Chase Bomeisler scored 15 to lead Cohasset and Alex Norton chipped in 6 for the Skippers.

Ruggiero had praise for his seniors when it was over.

"I can't give more credit to my senior South Shore League All-Star Alex Norton," he said. "He had a tremendous year, a tremendous two-year career."



Cohasset's Alex Norton takes it strong to the basket for a layup attempt during the third quarter of the Division 4 south final against Cathedral at Curry College on Friday, March 11, 2016. WICKED LOCAL STAFF PHOTO/ROBIN CHAN

Christian Hanke, Nick Rosen and JP Adams really hung in there together. It's a tribute to the seniors to get to this point."

He also praised Bomeisler, a sophomore who was a key this season.

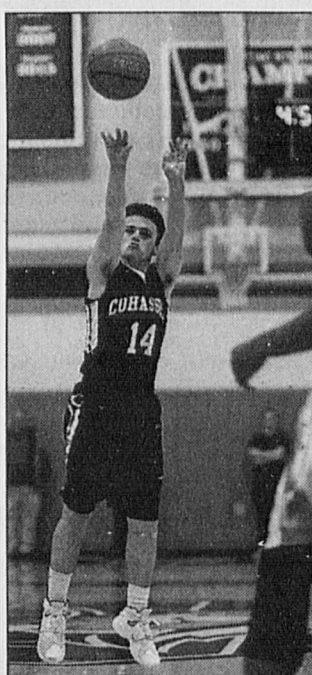
"Chase had one point in his first game this season," he said. "He was one-for-nine, terrible. Now he's a South Shore League All-Star. He's one guy who didn't have a stellar night tonight, but he answered the bell."

Ruggiero felt his team got caught in the spotlight.

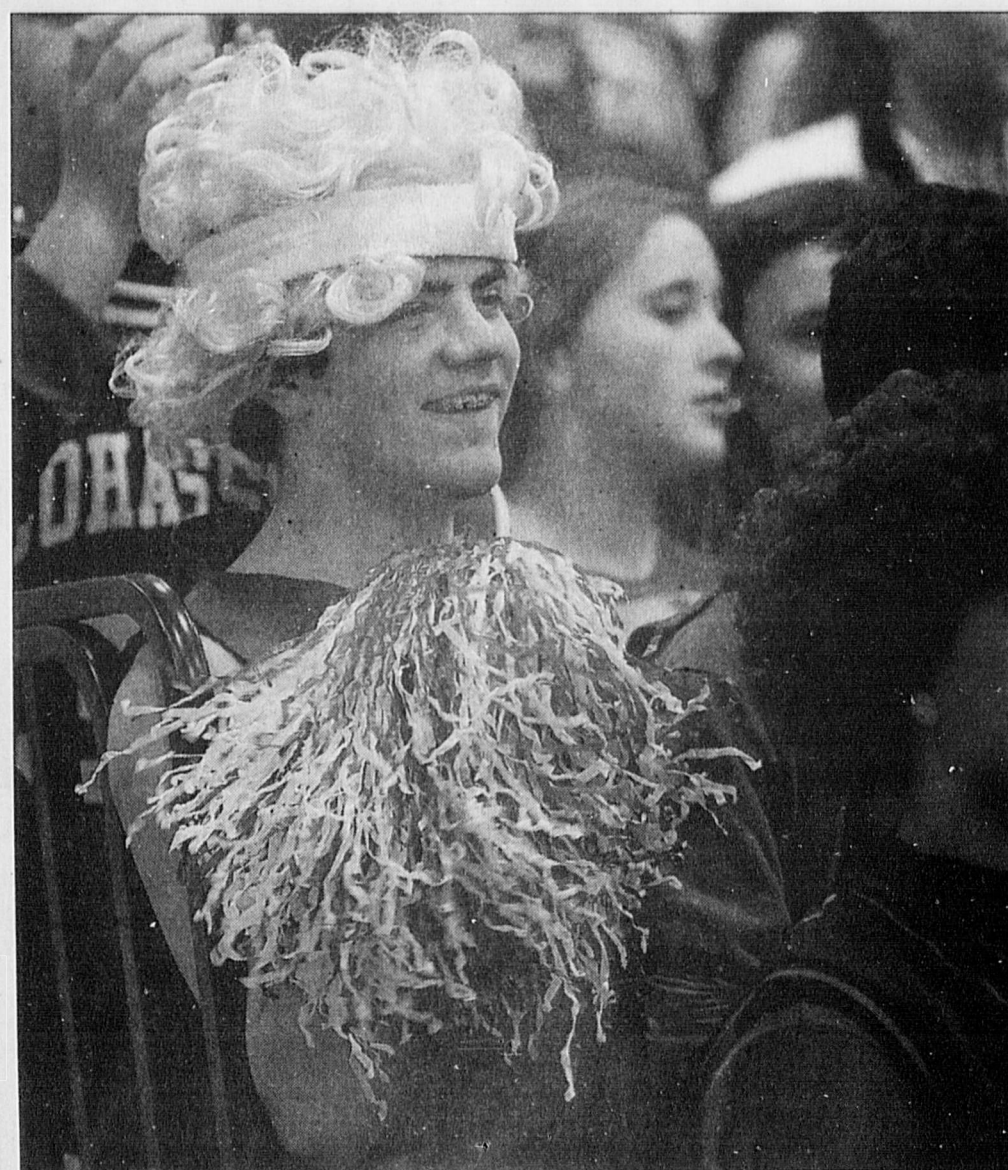
"We should have shot the ball more," he said. "But our guys were more tentative than they need to be. First time on a big stage for some of them."

Overall, Ruggiero was happy with the season.

"Terrific season," he said. "I'm very pleased with my players and the support from the community."



Cohasset's Liam O'Connell spots up for a three pointer during third quarter action of the Division 4 south final at Curry College on Friday, March 11, 2016. WICKED LOCAL STAFF PHOTO/ROBIN CHAN

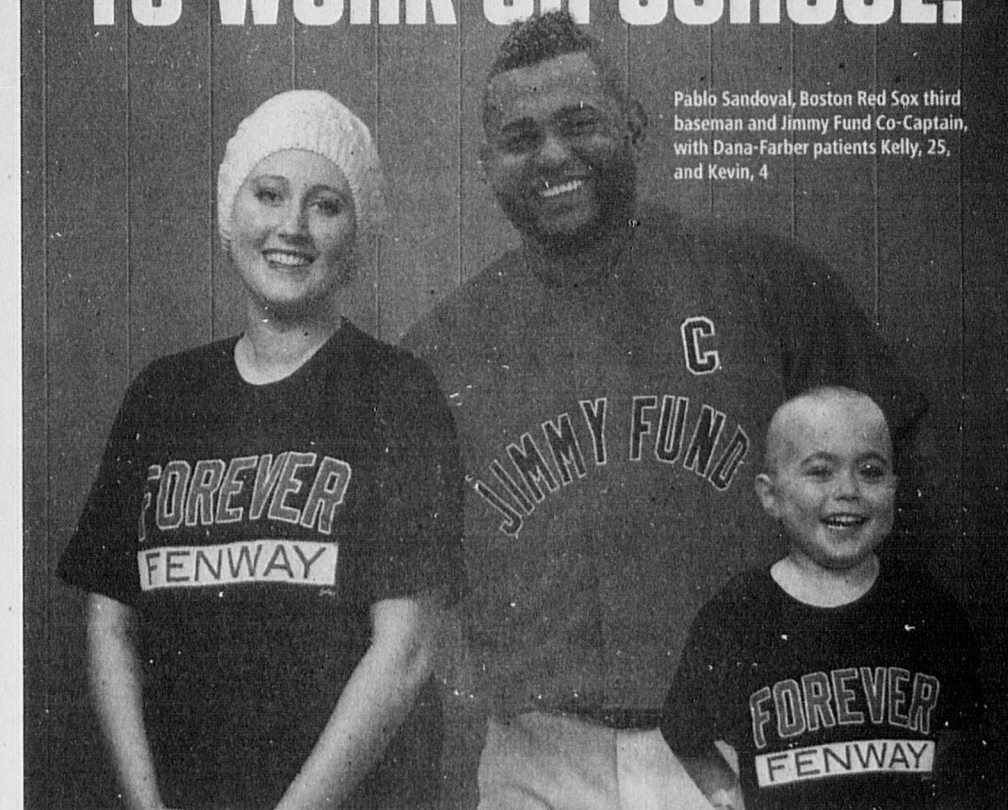


Freshman Matthew Lund dresses up as a cheerleader and cheer on the Skippers during the Division 4 south final against Cathedral at Curry College on Friday, March 11, 2016. WICKED LOCAL STAFF PHOTO/ROBIN CHAN

SUPPORT THE JIMMY FUND

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March 19

Datebook Guidelines:

- Datebook ads are limited to event listings.
- Weekly Regional Papers MetroWest Daily News
- To Place an Advertisement Call Linda at 781-433-7921 or Betty at 781-433-7905



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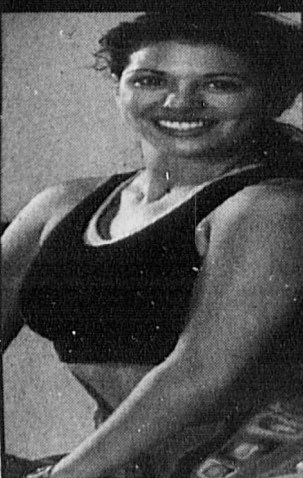
Norfolk Division

Docket No.
NO16P0492EANOTICE OF INFOR-
MAL PROBATE
G.L.c. 190B, § 3-306Estate of: David C.
Whipple

Date of Death: 01/02/2016

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Benjamin Whipple of Brookline, MA. A Will has been admitted to informal probate. Benjamin Whipple of Brookline, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

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UPDATE

The Carriage House Nursery
School reopens after pipe burst

The Carriage House Nursery School has reopened its doors in a new location, the second floor of what was formerly known as the Our World Museum, 100 Sohier St.

A pipe burst in the Parish House sometime in the very early morning on Feb. 14, causing water damage to most of the building, including the Carriage House Nursery School. The destruction made it necessary to close the nursery school's doors.

Ted Carroll, Cohasset's recreation director, opened another door for the school. Lynn Fahie, the director of the nursery school, and Pat Baird, the chair of the Nursery School Board, looked at the space that was formerly the second floor of the Our World Museum. The Recreation Department had recently moved their offices from the town hall to the former Our World space.

The second floor of this space had been shared with the Paul Pratt Library for various events and classes but both the recreation board and library board were able to move a few classes and free up the upstairs space



The Carriage House Nursery School has reopened its doors in a new location, the second floor of what was formerly known as the Our World Museum, 100 Sohier St. COURTESY PHOTO

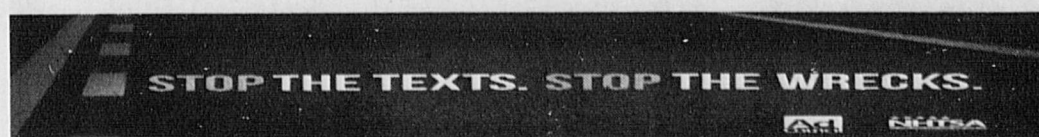
With the help of Carroll, and with
the Recreation Board and Library
Board's approval, the Carriage
House Nursery School reopened on
March 7.

for the nursery school to hold classes.

Fahie and Baird looked at 14 sites in Cohasset and none were appropriate for a nursery school that cares for 41 children at a given time. With the help of Carroll, and with

the Recreation Board and Library Board's approval, the Carriage House Nursery School reopened on March 7.

Rachel Moore Arace designed the space for the optimal enjoyment and learning for the children.



OBITUARIES

Obituaries appearing in this section are paid for and written by families, often through the services of a funeral director.

Joseph Perroncello

COHASSET - Joseph Perroncello, a lifelong resident of Cohasset and Delray, Fla., passed away on March 1, 2016. He was 92 and 5/6th.

The son of the late Pietro and Barbara (Migliaccio) Perroncello, Joe graduated Summa Cum Laude from Northeastern University and was valedictorian of Cohasset High School, Class of 1941.

Joe was a true gentleman, who stood for all things admirable. He had a difficult childhood, as his father passed away when he was six. Joe was the oldest child and was entrusted to grow up quick in the toughest of economic times, and to take care of his younger brother, Ralph and his mother.

As a child, he worked many jobs maintaining the estates on Jerusalem Road to make extra money for his family. He was a very religious and focused young man. Always a good student and very hard worker. He returned home, decorated with honors, and a victory from World War II, after serving in the US Army Air Corps 339th Fighter Wing. He served in major campaigns in the air offensive over Europe, Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes and Central Europe.

He supported Northeastern University to this day and was honored by the school on many occasions.

He and his brother married two sisters, Theresa and Maria Fornia; these brothers and sisters lived two hundred yards apart for over 50 years. There was not a day that went by that Joe did not miss his late wife, who passed in 1999.

He traveled extensively for business, which often meant "family travel", as he took his family as many places as possible. He not only taught all those around him, but he and Theresa also showed them with all their time and attention. He was a man of god. Loving and caring, Joe was tough when necessary.

Joe was well liked and respected by all, becoming managing partner of the Boston office for the major national accounting firm, Grant Thornton. When requested to manage other offices for the firm in other cities, Joe retired at the age of 62 instead.

Joe was a manager for the Archdiocese of Boston Computer Center in Brighton, and consulted for various corporations before fully retiring.

He also served on the Board of Directors for the hometown bank, Pilgrim Co-operative, Cohasset Water Department, and various positions with the



Joseph Perroncello

town of Cohasset.

He was a devout parishioner of St. Anthony Parish and a member at Cohasset Golf Club for

over 40 years and at Hunters Run in Florida for twenty years. He played golf with lots of friends, but most rounds were spent with his two sons, Joseph and Ernest.

He never complained, despite failing health. He was a special person and a perfect parent.

Joe is survived by his sons, Joseph Perroncello of Boston and Ernest Perroncello of Marathon, Fla., his daughters-in-law, Lisa and Anna, and his adored grandchildren, Julia, Tara, Sam, and Christopher. He was the beloved brother of the late Ralph Perroncello, a respected World War II veteran and lifelong Cohasset resident. Also survived by his sister-in-law, Maria (Fornia) Perroncello, the remaining member of the Fornia/Perroncello foursome, and his nephew and nieces, Peter, Elena, and Dona, who Joe taught to drive when they were 16, rewarding him with their company.

He was a generous patron of institutions, charities, universities and non profit organizations too numerous to mention. The family would like to thank the health care professionals at MGH, Harvard Vanguard, South Shore Hospital, Spaulding, and South Miami Baptist.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated Saturday, March 12, 2016, at 11:30 a.m. in St. Anthony Parish, Cohasset, followed by interment at Woodside Cemetery, Cohasset. A gathering of family and friends is set for Friday, March 11, 2016, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. in McNamara-Sparrell Funeral Home, 160 So. Main St. (across from St. Anthony Church), Cohasset.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that any contribution to honor Joe be made to Northeastern Univ. Graduate School of Prof. Accounting, 716 Columbus Ave., Ste. 402, Boston, MA. 02120. to help prepare students for careers and provide them business skills and experience; please indicate in memory of Alumnus Joseph Perroncello. For an online guest book, please visit www.mcnamara-sparrell.com.

McNamara-Sparrell
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781-383-0200
"Since 1820"

Barbara A. Meehan

COHASSET - Barbara Ann Meehan of Cohasset passed away peacefully on March 9, 2016.

She was the daughter of the late Lazar and Josephine Vangel; beloved mother of Dawn Pologruto and husband Thomas, Robert Meehan and wife Anna, Jennifer Matthews and husband Brian; devoted grandmother of John, Thomas, and Josephine Pologruto, Emily and Brooke Matthews; loving aunt of Charles and Laura, Joseph, and Jeannine Cavallaro; sister-in-law of Eileen Cavallaro; great-aunt of Max, Andrew, and Ava Cavallaro.

A graduate of Notre Dame Academy and Boston University, Barbara was steadfastly devoted to her family, especially her three children.

She was ever present at the Cohasset Swim Center and Cohasset Sailing Club to support her children in their

endeavors. Barbara was a long-time member of the Cohasset PSO and volunteered endlessly at the schools, sports and



Barbara A. Meehan

teams, town activities.

Her pride and joy were her five grandchildren. She was warm and caring and touched many lives.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated at St. Anthony's Church in Cohasset, Monday, March 14, at 10 a.m. Reception to follow at Atlantica, Cohasset.

For an online guest book, please visit www.mcnamara-sparrell.com.

McNamara-Sparrell
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Thomas M. Healy

COHASSET - Thomas Michael Healy of Cohasset, died on March 11, 2016, at age 89.

Loving and devoted husband of 55 years to the late Jay Jay (Jason), he was the father of Maureen Coburn of USVI, Susan (Jim) Benterou of California, Kathy of Scotland and Robert (Michelle) of Cohasset. He was also the father-in-law of the late Wallace Coburn and Dominic O'Donnell. He is survived by his sisters, Kathleen Dever, Marie Regan and Arlene Weiners; and one brother, Nathan Healy.

Tom was born in Dorchester, was the oldest son of Thomas and Eugenia Healy and the eldest of a family of nine.

As a young man Tom completed two tours of duty with the U.S. Navy as a signalman on the USS Providence and the USS Columbus.

His working life was spent in the employ of New England Telephone & Telegraph. He enjoyed many happy years

living in Cohasset, having moved there upon his marriage 1949. In his younger years he served the town of Cohasset as a call fireman. In his retirement he served as a driver of the Senior Shuttle.

Tom is also survived by six grandchildren, who were a continuing source of pride and joy, and many friends, both long-standing and new.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated Friday, March 18, 2016, at 11 a.m. in St. Anthony Church, Cohasset, followed by interment in Woodside Cemetery, Cohasset. Visiting hours Thursday, March 17, 2016, from 3-7 p.m. in McNamara-Sparrell Funeral Home, 160 So. Main St. (across from St. Anthony Church), Cohasset.

For an online guest book, please visit www.mcnamara-sparrell.com.

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SAVE THE DATE

The Road race is
three weeks away

The Cohasset Road Race by the Sea 10K is three weeks away! Are you registered? Join Cohasset Rotary Club on Sunday, April 3rd, for this 40-year Cohasset tradition, organized by Cohasset Rotary Club.

The 10K race begins at 1 p.m. on the Cohasset Common. The Fran Coffey Memorial Walk, which takes place on the same day, begins at 10 a.m. at Willcutt Commons parking lot. The majority of the walk follows the road race route, but starts and finishes at 91 Sohier Street, Willcutt Commons.

Our emcee is Cohasset's own Anthony Everett of WCVB-TV Channel 5's Chronicle. The race also features the music of the Armstrong Brother's Band,

and new this year, Bai Water will be distributing samples to all runners and walkers. Runners can also sign up in advance to "stash their stuff" with The Mobile Locker, Co., which provides runners with individual lockers so no one has to worry about where to leave their things while they're enjoying the race.

The Rotary Club of Cohasset is grateful for all of our sponsors, including our 2016 Banner Sponsors: RW Rosano; Graham Waste Services; ColoSpace, Coastal Nissan, Pilgrim Bank, and Cohasset Dental.

Register at roadraceby-thesea.com "Like" us on Facebook.

HOLLY HILL FARM

Summer Camp open house

Holly Hill Farm is located at 236 Jerusalem Road, Cohasset, MA; 781-383-6565; hollyhillfarm.org.

Holly Hill Farm Summer Camp 2016: The farm has a wide variety of fun, exploratory, creative, intriguing programs for all ages. Kids ages 3 and 4 can taste spinach. Children ages 7 and 8

can spend a morning at the marsh. Preteens ages 9 and 10 can compete in an obstacle course. Teenagers can prepare for an exciting overnight at the Farm. Adults can spend a week honing gardening skills and cooking vegetables for a special Parents Go to Camp, Too program.

Go to the website and click on the camp signup photo to learn more about individual sessions and to register early. Camp Open House will be 10 a.m. to noon March 19. Sessions begin June 6 and continue through Aug. 26. Call or email the farm: 781-383-6565 or friendsofhollyhillfarm@gmail.com.

BRIEFLY

Art center
spring
classes

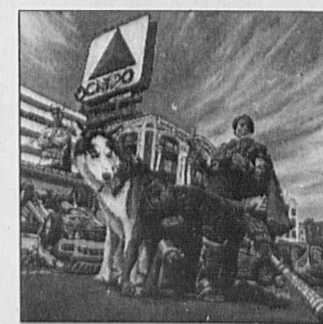
South Shore Art Center recently announced its spring schedule of courses and workshops in all media for students of all ages and abilities, which will begin April 25 at South Shore Art Center, 119 Ripley Road.

New youth classes include Art Expressions-Moving on Up, for third through sixth grades on Friday afternoons, and Fledgling Creations, for kindergarten through first grade, on Monday afternoons. Both classes are taught by Patrice Kelley. An April Vacation camp will be held during the April school vacation, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. April 19-22.

New adult classes include Still Life: Painting with Light and Color taught by Renee Caouette, How to Stop Worrying and Paint More with Paul Endres Jr., Flowers from a Painter's Garden with Sarah Roche and Experimental Pastel Master Class with Cape Cod artist Ed Chesnovitch. Classes and workshops are offered in all media for all ages and abilities.

Drawing and painting classes also are offered at the Hingham Community Center, 70 South St., Hingham.

For a full description and to register, visit ssac.org or call 781-383-2787.



"Sullivan Seven" by Paul Endres Jr. Courtesy Photo

How to Submit an Obituary
to the Weekly Newspapers

To contact our obituary department, please e-mail obits@wickedlocal.com

or
call 781-433-6905

or
Fax 781-433-6965

Obituaries for the weekly newspapers are taken at the Randolph office Monday through Friday.

Please Call for Deadline Details

COHASSET POLICE/FIRE LOG

The following are excerpts from the Cohasset Police/Fire Log which is a public record and available for review.

Monday, March 7

1:14 p.m.: A motor vehicle accident was reported at Atlantic Avenue and Lothrop Lane. A caller reported that he fell asleep at the wheel and hit a pole. Airbags did not deploy. No injuries were reported.

2:54 p.m.: Elderly couple locked out of their house on Lothrop Lane.

4:14 p.m.: Employee at Cohasset House of Pizza reports a woman who is visibly upset in the store.

4:49 p.m.: A dispute was reported in a shop on Depot Court. A caller reported a service dog inside the store. Owner does not understand the rules for service animals. An officer was dispatched to explain the law. Both parties ended up satisfied.

Tuesday, March 8

3:16 p.m.: Walk-in to station reports taxi driver knocked on her door; she did not call for a taxi and taxi driver was rude to her.

3:25 p.m.: A fire was reported on Jerusalem Road. There was a problem with a smoke detector battery. Services were rendered.

5:09 p.m.: Suspicious activity was reported on Grace Drive. A man in a white Mazda pulled into the driveway of the house and took a picture of the house with his cellphone. Caller reported this happening more than once. Resident did not want to see an officer and did not know if the vehicle left the street or not. An area check turned up negative.

5:26 p.m.: A fire alarm was reported on Hull Street, on the second floor of an apartment. Alarm was a confirmed result of burnt food.

7:14 p.m.: Officer conducting traffic enforcement on Sohler Street.

8:09 p.m.: An animal complaint was reported on Stevens Lane. Caller reported a loose dog messing with his dog. The loose dog could see the caller's dog through the glass door and tried to ram himself into it. Caller said this is an ongoing issue. Officers could not locate the dog right away.

9:01 p.m.: An animal complaint was reported on Highland Court. Officers and Animal Control spoke with owner of the dog that ran itself into the glass door. Owner reported that the dog had been at her sister's house all day in Hingham. Officers spoke to the sister who confirmed the information. While officers were at owner's house, there was no signs of the dog being there.

Wednesday, March 9

12:39 a.m.: A disturbance was reported at the Harborview Nursing Center on Chief Justice Cushing Highway. Caller reported some sort of commotion at the front desk with a patient and nurse. Caller stated the nurse will wait for an officer at the north unit. Parties came to an agreement, and patient will move to a new room.

2:43 p.m.: A carbon monoxide alarm was reported on Black Rock Road. Alarm company reported the alarm but hadn't made contact with the residents yet. Alarm company received a cancellation from residents. Residents stated they are airing out the house and don't know why the alarm was going off. Services were rendered.

3:25 p.m.: An animal complaint was reported at Cedar Lane and South Main Street. Caller reported seeing a raccoon in the daylight hours that looked ill. An area check turned up negative.

3:25 p.m.: A motor vehicle accident was reported near Hingham Lumber on Chief Justice Cushing Highway. Caller reported the accident stating that there didn't appear to be any injuries.

3:39 p.m.: A civil issue was reported on Bancroft Road. Resident was having property surveyed to extend their fence. Neighbor pulled up one of the surveyor stakes and left it in the driveway. Officer spoke with parties and neither admitted to doing it.

3:54 p.m.: Larceny was reported at the station on Elm Street. A walk-in to the station reported her bicycle was stolen out of her barn in her backyard.

4:40 p.m.: A motor vehicle accident was reported at Chief Justice Cushing Highway and King Street. Caller reported a two-car motor vehicle accident was reported. A second caller did not stop by states one of the drivers may have a bloody nose.

4:49 p.m.: A suspicious



TRAFFIC SAFETY TIP OF THE WEEK: As many as 7 out of 10 child seats are installed incorrectly. The Cohasset Police have two certified Child Seat Installation Technicians, Sgt. Jeff Treanor and Police Officer Paul Wilson. Both are available most days to inspect or install seats. Pictured here, Sgt. Treanor installs the base of a child seat. Appointments are available by emailing: jtreaanor@cohassetpolice.com or calling 781-383-1055 and asking for Sgt. Treanor. COURTESY PHOTO

person was reported on Chief Justice Cushing Highway.

Caller reported a man on a bicycle with a camo backpack traveling around to the ATMs in the area. Caller stated it was not necessary to speak to an officer but wanted the area checked out. Services were rendered.

7:33 p.m.: A disturbance was reported on Hull Street. Caller reported a dispute between father and son. Caller reported it was more of a child-raising issue. Services were rendered.

10:50 p.m.: Scituate police report a black Cadillac operating erratically just crossed over into Cohasset.

10:45 p.m.: A suspicious person was reported on Hull Street. Caller reported a woman came to her door

asking for money and stumbling while leaving. Caller, believed the woman to be drunk or under the influence.

Thursday, March 10

6:20 a.m.: Officer on traffic patrol at N. Main Street and Rocky Lane.

10:03 a.m.: An animal complaint was reported on Atlantic Avenue. Caller reported hitting a deer. Caller believed the deer to still be alive on the side of the road. Units located the deer and put it down.

12:33 p.m.: Drug kiosk emptied at Cohasset police station.

2:39 p.m.: Officer on parking enforcement on S. Main Street in the village.

Friday, March 11

5:52 a.m.: Officer on traffic patrol on Sohler Street.

9:00 a.m.: Officer conducting traffic enforcement on Depot Court; violations issued.

9:31 a.m.: Walk-in to station reports past larceny.

12:59 p.m.: A burglary alarm was reported on Jerusalem Road. The alarm was set off by the mud room window. The building was checked and secured.

1:44 p.m.: MV stop at Beechwood Street and Norman Todd Road results in a tow for revoked insurance.

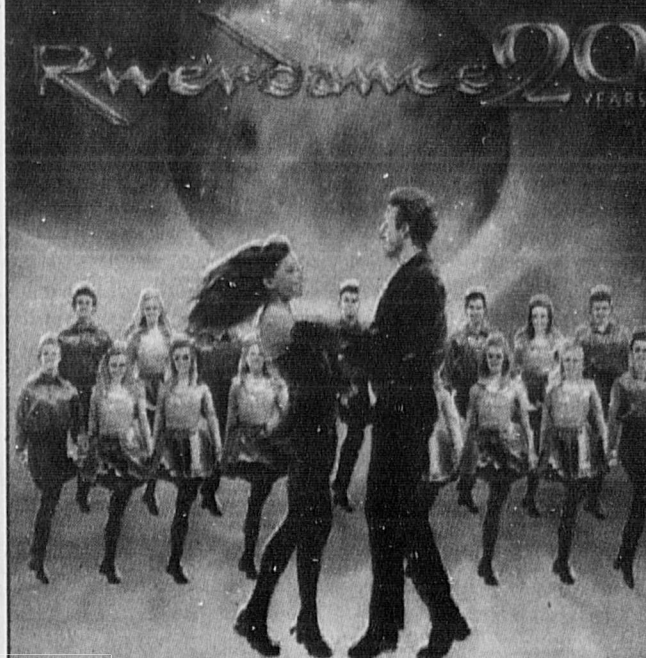
5:07 p.m.: Officer on traffic enforcement at Beechwood and Doane streets.

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MOYA DOHERTY

DIRECTED BY
JOHN MCCOLGAN



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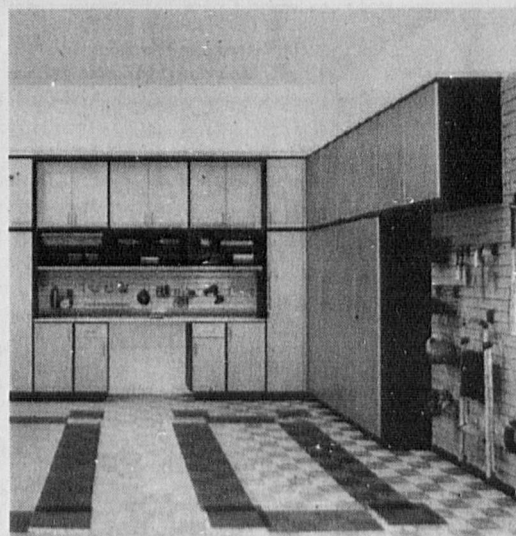
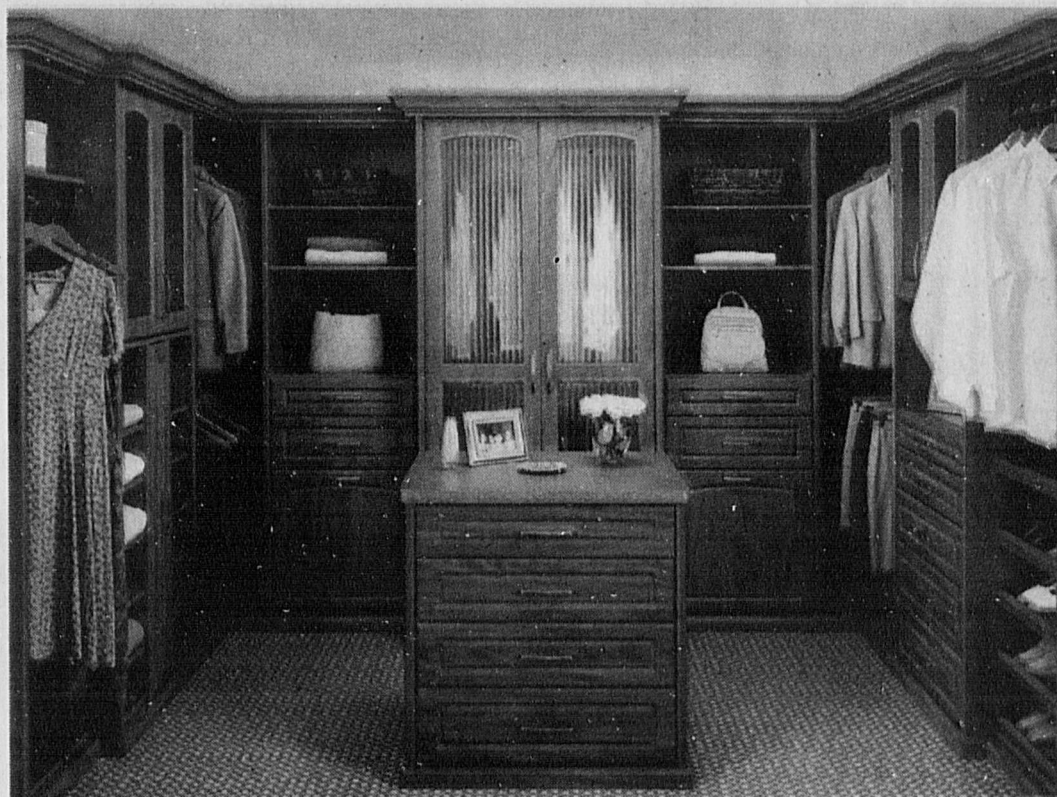
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GIMME SHELTER

Scottie has you at 'hello'

By Tammy Hatch

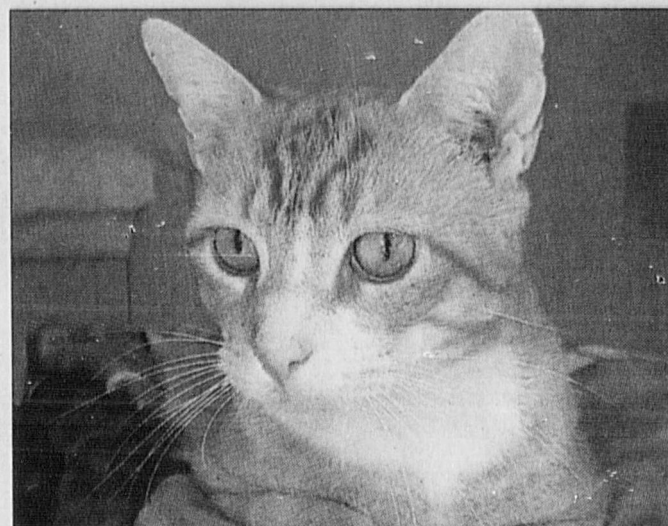
Meet Scottie, a loveable, sweet natured 2-year-old orange tabby with a personality that will melt your heart at hello. Big white paws, sparkling orange eyes, long white whiskers and celebrity resemblance to Kirk Douglas complete his handsome face.

Scottie is a total love who is an absolute joy to be in the company of. He is very quick to engage a visitor and will hop up onto your lap, drape his long arms over your shoulder, lock eyes with you and then nuzzle his head under your chin again and again all the while purring like a locomotive.

A rescued stray, Scottie has demonstrated he has escape artist skills. He misses the outdoors that shows with his constant stare out of his window and his desire to bolt out of the door of his room every time it's opened. His love of humans tells us Scottie was somebody's pet once. His desire to get outside any way he can tells us he likely managed to get out on his own, but wasn't able to find his way home.

Following his rescue and vet check we learned that Scottie was positive for FIV (feline immunodeficiency virus). FIV is transmitted to another cat through biting. It cannot be spread through casual contact to humans or other felines. A cat with FIV can live a happy and perfectly normal life. The only special care required for a cat with FIV are regular veterinary check-ups to keep an eye on the immune system.

Scottie needs to be in a home with responsible owners who will not only



Once you meet Scottie and see how huge his orange cat personality truly is, he will win your heart. COURTESY PHOTO

be mindful of his keen interest in getting outside, but who will commit to providing him with the extra care he needs. Calm, sweet and loving this special boy deserves affection and attention. Once you meet Scottie and see how huge his orange cat personality truly is, he will win your heart.

You can learn more about Scottie as well as the other cats and kittens we have available for adoption by visiting us online at www.hsar.org or by visiting us at our new location, 487 Nantasket Ave., Hull. Open hours are Monday nights, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., and Saturdays, 2 to 3 p.m. If these times are not convenient for you, special appointments can be made by calling our adoption coordinator at 781-534-4902.

Hull Seaside Animal Rescue is a non-profit, no kill shelter. We rescue cats and provide care and housing for them while they await adoption to their forever home. We do not euthanize any cats or kittens we take in who have a treatable illness. Whether they came to us as a feral, a stray, a rescue

or as a surrender, all of the cats and kittens at our shelter receive the attention they not only need, but deserve, especially when it comes to medical care. Our cats need your support. Won't you consider making a tax-free donation today? It's easy, just log onto www.hsar.org and from our home page click the yellow "donate now" box.

Photos with Easter Bunny

Spring is here and after you take a run in the park and a shampoo your dog in their tub you and your best friend can get your picture taken with the Easter Bunny at Unleashed in the Hingham Shipyard on the following dates: March 12 and 13, March 19 and 20 or on the last day, Saturday, March 26. Stop in from 12 to 2 p.m. and take home a memory of your furry friend put in a special frame for \$10. Hull Seaside Animal Rescue and South Shore Humane Society will benefit from all donations.

—Tammy Hatch is a Volunteer and Board Member at Hull Seaside Animal Rescue.



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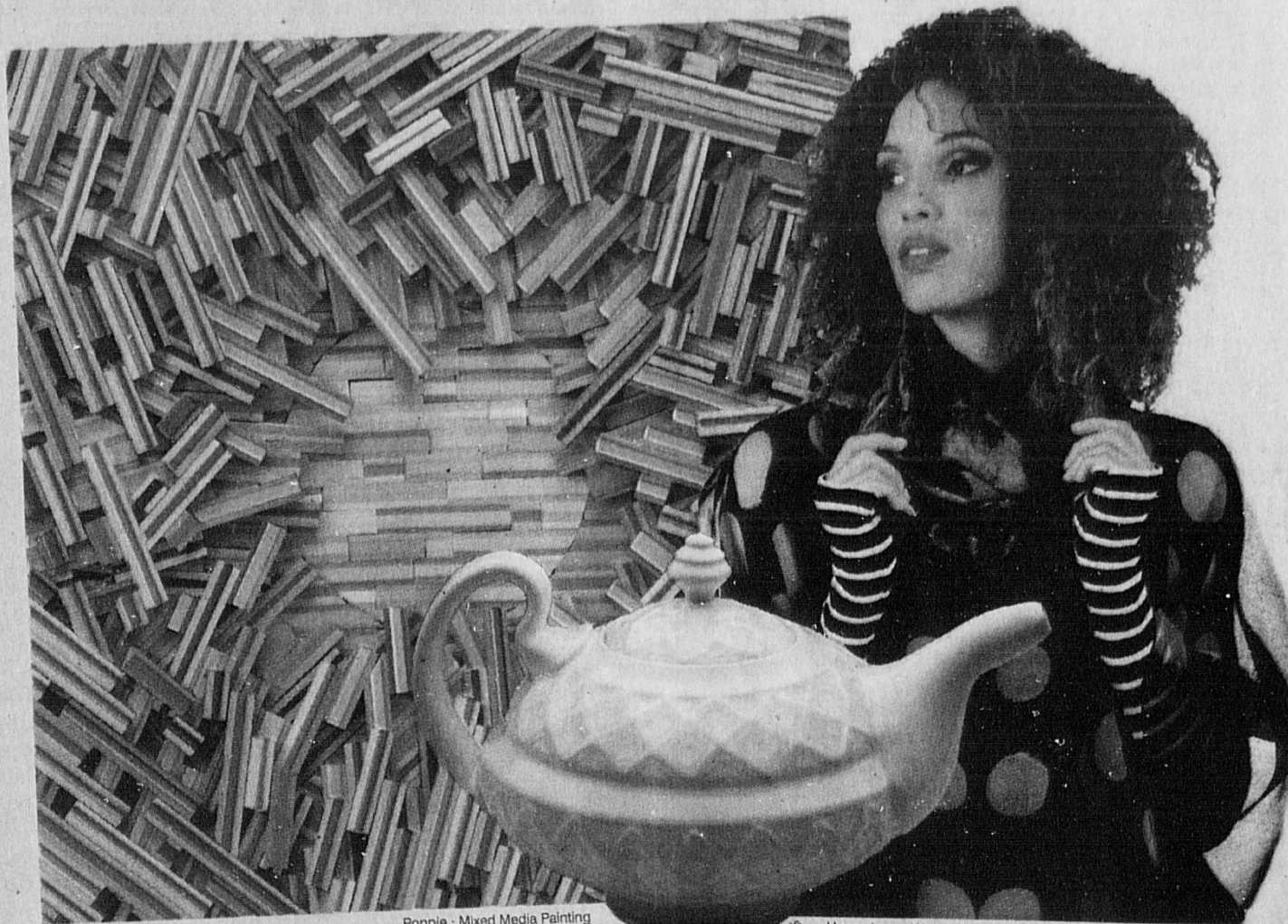


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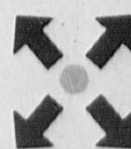
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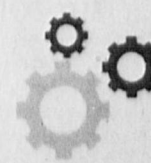
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LAWS

From Page A1

police chiefs discretion to consider other factors, such as an applicant's past behavior or mental health, in determining suitability for a license to carry a firearm.

It is here, using the suitability determination, where some municipalities have imposed additional requirements or restrictions on residents looking to own firearms.

In Lowell, residents seeking a license to carry must complete an approved safety course that includes a live-fire component, and submit a written statement detailing specific reasons why the applicant should be granted an unrestricted license to carry a weapon—in addition to fulfilling the state requirements.

Woburn requires applicants to pass a written test.

Ashland calls for two letters from references. Nantucket asks for three.

Cambridge asks its license-to-carry applicants for a utility bill or notarized letter to prove residency, two typed letters from references, a driver's license or state ID showing a city address, birth certificate or passport, and a letter stating the reason for seeking a license to carry a firearm.

Gun ownership advocates are fighting back against local discretion clauses, calling the requirements a violation of second amendment rights.

"I think it's an outright violation of the law," Jim Wallace, executive director of the Gun Owner's Action League, said.

A bill penned by Wallace's organization and filed by Rep. Jim Miceli, D-Wilmington, would ban municipalities and counties from passing or enforcing additional requirements on top of what is already required by state law for ownership or possession of firearms.

The bill's intention is to "prevent a patchwork of local confusion across the state," Miceli's aid David Robertson told the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland security during a January hearing.

The bill seeks to amend state law to give the state Executive Office of Public Safety and Security control over local licensing authorities so that municipalities are not erecting additional hurdles for residents seeking lawful gun ownership.

On the South Shore, most municipalities are considered "green zones"—meaning it



A supporter of open carry gun laws prepares for a rally in Austin, Texas. In Massachusetts, gun owners are backing a bill that would prevent a patchwork of local ordinances on licensing that they call a violation of their second amendment rights. AP FILE PHOTO / ERIC GAY

is relatively easy to obtain a license to carry, said Steve Trindall of Hanover, a State Police-certified instructor at the Marshfield Rod & Gun Club.

Towns that enforce local discretion requirements will be labeled "orange" or "red" by gun organizations like Trindall's. Local discretion is something Trindall said he doesn't particularly like, as it seems arbitrary.

"I have a real issue with that kind of enforcement being so local level and disparate among communities," he said. Hanover Police Chief Walter Sweeney said he doesn't see a need to tack on additional requirements. The local discretion clause, he said, gives ample authority to chiefs to consider things like past behavior and mental illness.

Norwell police Chief Ted Ross agreed.

"I feel as though the process we have in place to process both licenses to carry and Firearms identification cards is sufficient regardless of the restrictions available," he said.

Under state law gun owners to hold either a Class A or Class B firearms license. Class A licenses, widely known for including the right to carry a concealed weapon, allow the holder to possess large-capacity firearms like a pistol or revolver.

A Class B license to carry entitles the holder to possess a non-large capacity firearm like a rifle or shotgun. Since the requirements for Class A and B licenses are largely the same, Chief Sweeney said most gun owners opt for the Class A because it allows for unrestricted carry.

A Firearm identification—or FID—entitles someone to possess non-large capacity rifles and shotguns.

It's unclear how widespread the practice of having additional requirements to obtain an unrestricted firearms license to carry is among municipalities in Massachusetts. As the legislature

continues to study Miceli's bill, Rep. David Viera, R-East Falmouth, said he would compile a list of municipal restrictions: The Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security will then determine whether to have an oversight hearing on local discretion.

State Rep. Jim Cantwell, D-Marshfield, who sits on the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security, said the key to gun laws is striking a balance between legal ownership and limiting access to individuals with mental illness or violent histories. He cited a provision in the state's 2014 gun law reforms that struck a compromise between House and Senate versions of the bill dealing with licensing discretion for firearm identification cards.

Ultimately, the bill passed gave police chiefs the ability to challenge firearm identifications in court if "reliable, articulable and credible evidence exists that the applicant has behaved in a way to suggest he or she could potentially create a risk to public safety."

"I supported this legislation last session, which I think is a model for nation the nation," Cantwell said.

The caveat of going to court to contest an FID included in this bill was more palatable to gun ownership advocates like Wallace who disavow the authority placed with police chiefs to deny or confirm license-to-carry applicants because the process is clearly defined and less arbitrary.

"This bill was endorsed by the Gun Owners Action League and Stop Handgun Violence because we worked to create that balance," he said.

—Reporter Hannah Sparks contributed to this article. Follow Erin Tiernan on Twitter @ErinTiernan.

RATES

From Page A1

a gun in their home," said Quigley.

"But when we get into somebody with minimal training carrying a pistol on their person in a public place, that's when we have to pause and really consider," Quigley said. "It may be knee-jerk reaction to an incident, and that's not the best reason to arm yourself."

When the knee-jerk reactions kick in, what people want is a Class A large capacity license to carry a firearm, but that's not usually what they get. "Large capacity" means the weapon holds more than 10 rounds of ammunition. For Quigley, there just aren't that many people who need that kind of ammo.

"We hold the Second Amendment near and dear to our heart," said Quigley, "but we want to be very careful as to who has the ability to conceal a firearm that has a large capacity of ammunition."

The 315 Class A licenses issued in Cohasset belong to current and retired police officers, special officers, state troopers, deputy sheriffs, corrections officers, security personnel, bankers, owners of businesses who deal with large amounts of cash or expensive jewels and gems—in short, residents and business-owners or employees with a demonstrated need.

Sergeant Jeff Treanor sits down with applicants on a case-by-case basis to identify their motivation and need for seeking a license to carry.

If it's just a knee-jerk reaction—or, equally common, a fear that the government is coming to take away everyone's guns, so you'd better get 'em while you can—then Treanor will suggest a different kind of license that would be more appropriate, before forwarding the application to Detective Greg Lennon and, finally, to Quigley for review and sign-off.

One alternative—and if you're over 18, you actually don't need a license for this anymore, thanks to a 2014 change in firearms law—is to carry a chemical propellant, such as pepper spray, instead.

Or, you could go for a Class B non-large capacity license to carry. "Non-large capacity" means the weapon holds 10 rounds of ammunition or less.

A Class B license allows

the holder to keep a firearm at home or in the trunk of a vehicle (secured and unloaded), but not on his or her person. Class B licenses are sufficient for hobbyists who enjoy target practice and hunting, and are held by eight people in the Town of Cohasset.

To qualify for a Class A or B license, applicants must complete an eight-hour gun safety and information course, which includes training on how to care for and store a gun, before even filling out the paperwork. The training course can be taken at most rod and gun clubs or shooting ranges. Scituate, Marshfield, Hanson and Braintree are the nearest towns that have rod and gun clubs.

Once training is complete, Cohasset requires the same materials and background checks as other municipalities in the State of Massachusetts, starting with a standard application form.

Applicants must provide at least two letters of recommendation demonstrating their need for a firearm. Recommendations may simply provide a general testament to the person's character and fitness for owning and carrying a dangerous weapon.

Letters may be provided by an employer, confirming that the applicant regularly handles large sums of money or valuables. Bank records showing large cash deposits may also be requested as further proof of necessity.

The police department runs a criminal background check on every applicant to see whether he or she has ever been involved with law enforcement.

Applicants are also screened through the Department of Mental Health. If there is an existing or chronic condition, or if the applicant has had to be hospitalized for mental health reasons, police will confer with doctors and family members to determine whether a firearm is a good choice for that individual.

Quigley had no problem admitting, "A lot of this stuff is a judgment call. I try my hardest not to be arbitrary and capricious. Sometimes, people get hurt feelings, but I have the general public to worry about, and the officers—I don't want them to encounter someone that's armed and may not be stable."

Quigley added that applicants who have been denied

a permit can always appeal that decision through the district court. But as for his department, he would much rather err on the side of caution.

Massachusetts residents must have a firearms ID card in order to purchase, possess, or transport a rifle or shotgun that is not a large-capacity gun; to purchase or possess ammunition or component parts of ammunition; and to purchase or possess defense sprays for anyone age 15-17 (again, no license is required past the age of 18).

In Cohasset, 45 firearms ID cards have been issued. Additionally, six people between the ages of 15 and 17 hold a restricted firearms ID card for chemical propellants only.

Finally, there are two active licenses to possess a machine gun. Both belong to police officers who have advanced knowledge of firearms and are trained as firearms instructors.

Licenses and IDs must be renewed every six years. They can be suspended or revoked if something drastically changes before that time is up—for instance, if a license-holder is arrested for drunken driving or domestic violence, or develops a mental health issue later in life, as recently happened in Cohasset.

Cohasset police have had to revoke two licenses to carry in the past year.


As Massachusetts zeroes in on gun laws, Quigley thinks it will only improve the system. It's not going to make it any easier or harder to get a license, but it will make it easier for law enforcement officers to understand and apply the statutes.

"Some laws are really muddy," said Quigley. "Nothing is straightforward." Hopefully, consistency across the Commonwealth can contribute to clarity for the people whose job it is to enforce firearms law.

The bottom line? Whatever happens at the state level, for the Cohasset Police Department, it comes down to reasonableness.

"We don't want to be handing out gun licenses like they're door prizes," said Quigley. "It's a serious matter; someone could take someone else's life with this instrument. We give it the overview and respect it deserves."

—Follow Amanda on Twitter for updates: @MarinerAmandaT



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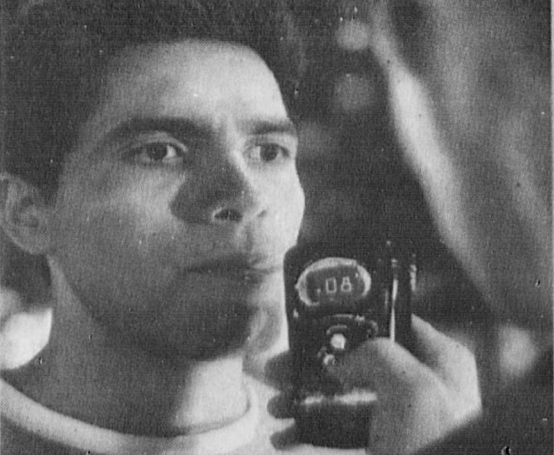
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Abington	62	1,008	1	3
Braintree	159	1,252	18	7
Canton	67	747	350	0
Cohasset	45	315	8	2
Hanover	55	935	2	18
Hingham	74	1,118	3	3
Holbrook	5	119	0	2
Marshfield	190	1,943	3	6
Norwell	121	1,025	1	3
Pembroke	23	211	0	0
Randolph	52	1,246	0	5
Rockland	90	1,134	43	4
Scituate	175	911	0	0
Stoughton	115	1,192	0	1
Weymouth	166	1,774	15	3





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SPECIAL REPORT: GUN OWNERSHIP

Laws vary throughout New England

By Gerry Tuoti
gtuoti@wickedlocal.com

The process of buying a gun is considerably different in Massachusetts than in many other states.

Not only does Massachusetts ban most sales of assault weapons, its universal licensing requirements ensure legal gun buyers undergo background checks.

"Massachusetts has done a really good job of educating and encouraging citizens to handle their guns responsibly," said Zoe Grover, executive director of Newton-based Stop Handgun Violence. "They've done a lot to limit gun deaths without doing an outright ban on guns."

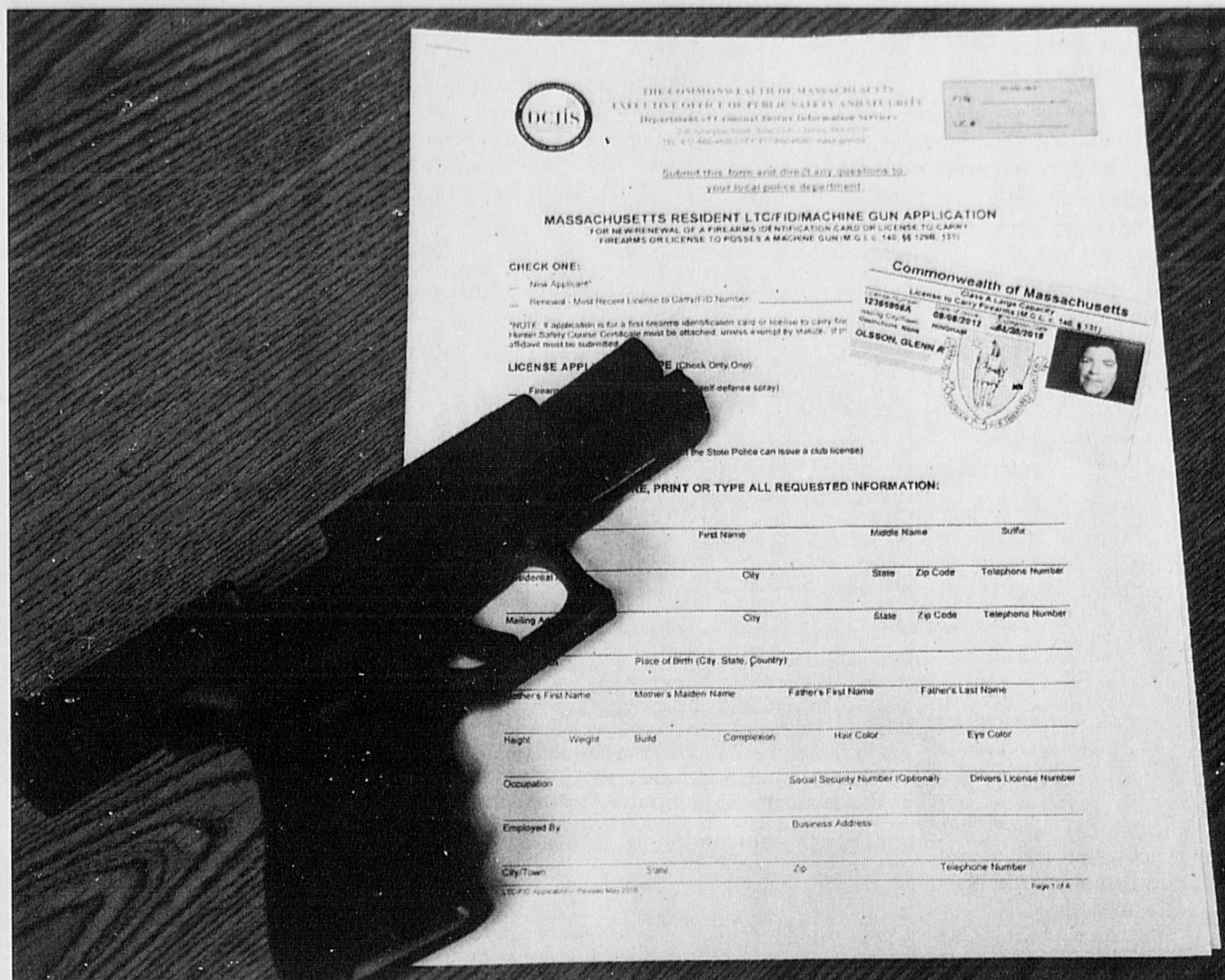
While federal law requires background checks for anyone buying a gun from a federally licensed vendor, most states don't subject private purchases, including sales at gun shows, to that same level of scrutiny.

In Massachusetts, however, any prospective gun buyer is legally required to obtain a license through his or her local police department. The license is required whether the buyer is purchasing from a federally licensed gun shop or a private seller.

As part of the Massachusetts licensing process, the applicant is subjected to a background check that screens for past criminal activity and history of severe mental illness.

A 2014 state law required Massachusetts courts to transmit certain mental health records to the FBI's national database.

"The background check system is only as good as the reporting system of the states that are providing the information," said Allison Anderman, a staff attorney with the Law Center to Prevent Handgun Violence. •



Applications for a license are mostly done online now but paper applications are still available. Online applications are done through MIRCS, Massachusetts Instant Record Check System. Fingerprinting is also done digitally, a camera photographs the individuals face and takes an electronic fingerprint. WICKED LOCAL STAFF PHOTO/ALYSSA STONE

Massachusetts laws

In addition to requiring all gun buyers to obtain a license, Massachusetts also requires sellers to get a state dealer license. Unlicensed sellers are allowed to transfer ownership of up to four firearms per year, and all firearms sales are recorded by the state.

Many assault weapons and large-capacity magazines are banned in Massachusetts, although 50 caliber rifles are legal.

City and town governments in the Bay State are allowed to impose their own local restrictions on guns and ammunition.

Massachusetts does not have a waiting period on gun purchases or restrict the

number of firearms a buyer can legally purchase at one time.

Maine

Gun ownership laws in Maine are much less restrictive than in Massachusetts.

Maine doesn't require background checks prior to private gun sales, doesn't mandate that gun sellers or buyers obtain state licenses and doesn't require firearms owners to register their weapons. Assault weapons, 50 caliber rifles and large capacity magazines are legal in Maine.

Cities and towns in Maine don't have the legal authority to regulate firearms at the local level.

In Maine, there is no waiting period for firearm purchases, and no limit on the number of guns that can be purchased at one time.

New Hampshire

The Granite State requires handgun dealers to get a state license, but doesn't require a state license for rifle and shotgun vendors.

Rather than solely relying on the FBI for its background checks, New Hampshire performs its own background checks for handgun sales from licensed sellers. In performing those background checks, the state has access to both state and federal databases. The state background checks, however, do

not apply to the sale of rifles and shotguns.

There is no requirement for a background check in private gun sales in New Hampshire.

Assault weapons, large capacity magazines and 50 caliber rifles are legal in New Hampshire. The state doesn't require gun owners to get a license or register their weapons.

Rhode Island

In Rhode Island, background checks are required for private gun sales. Anyone buying a handgun must first qualify for a safety certification.

The Ocean State imposes a seven-day waiting period

on all gun sales, but firearms owners are not required to register their weapons. There is no limit on the number of guns a person can buy at one time.

Rhode Island doesn't ban assault weapons, 50 caliber rifles or large capacity magazines, and local governments are not given the authority to regulate firearms.

Connecticut

The gun ownership laws in Connecticut are similar to those in Massachusetts.

Connecticut requires background checks prior to private gun sales, including purchases made at gun shows.

Firearms dealers are required to get a state license, while anyone buying a handgun, long gun or ammunition must first qualify for an eligibility certificate.

Connecticut performs its own background checks, using state and federal databases, rather than solely relying on the FBI. There's a statewide two-week waiting period on long gun sales from licensed vendors.

There is no limit on the number of guns a person can buy at one time.

Under Connecticut law, assault weapons, large capacity firearms and some types of 50 caliber rifles are banned.

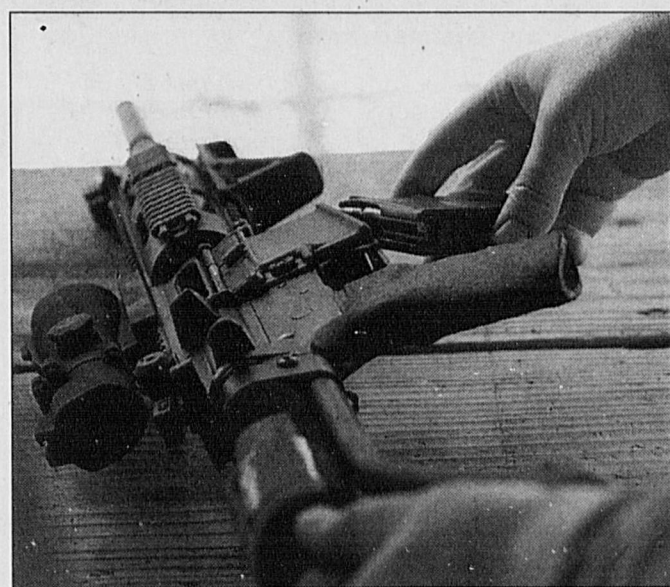
Municipal governments in Connecticut have the authority to impose their own regulations on firearms and ammunition.

Vermont

In Vermont, sellers and buyers are not required to get a state license, and there are no background checks for private gun sales. There is no waiting period on purchases, and no limit on the number of weapons a person can buy at one time.

Vermont doesn't require state courts to report records of mental health commitments or adjudications to the firearm purchaser background check database.

DEFINITIONS AND LAWS



WICKED LOCAL PHOTO CHRIS BERNSTEIN



AP PHOTO



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License to Carry and FID Card

A License To Carry Class A entitles the holder to possess a large capacity firearm (pistol or revolver), rifle or shotgun. Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 140, Section 121 defines large capacity.

A License To Carry Class B entitles the holder to possess a non-large capacity firearm or large capacity rifle or shotgun.

A Firearm Identification (FID) entitles the holder to possess non-large capacity rifles and shotguns.

As of Dec. 31, 2020, there will be a single license to carry, and the holder will be able to possess any firearm, rifle or shotgun, that is legal to own in the state of Massachusetts.

A license to carry (LTC) or a firearms identification card (FID) is issued pursuant to state law and may be obtained from the police department where a person lives or has a place of business.

A person with a Class A license may transport a handgun, loaded or unloaded,

on his person or under his direct control in the vehicle. If the handgun is not under his direct control, it must be unloaded and in a locked case, locked trunk or another secure container.

A person with a Class B license must transport handguns unloaded and in a locked case, locked trunk or another secure container. A person transporting large capacity rifles and shotguns must transport them unloaded and in a locked case, locked trunk or another secure container. Trigger locks do not meet the requirements of securing a weapon during transport in a motor vehicle.

Types of guns under Massachusetts General Laws

Assault weapon: Shall have the same meaning as a semi-automatic assault weapon as defined in the federal Public Safety and Recreational Firearms Use Protection Act,

and shall include, but not be limited to, any of the weapons, or copies or duplicates of the weapons, of any caliber, known as: (i) Avtomat Kalashnikov (AK) (all models); (ii) Action Arms Israeli Military Industries UZI and Galil; (iii) Beretta Ar70 (SC?70); (iv) Colt AR?15; (v) Fabrique National FN/FAL, FN/LAR and FNC; (vi) SWD M-10, M-11, M-11½ and M-12; (vii) Steyr AUG; (viii) INTRATEC TEC-9, TEC-DC9 and TEC-22; and (ix) revolving cylinder shotguns, such as, or similar to, the Street Sweeper and Striker 12.

Firearm: A pistol, revolver or other weapon of any description, from which a shot or bullet can be discharged and of which the length of the barrel or barrels is less than 16, or 18 inches in the case of a shotgun, as originally manufactured.

Large capacity feeding device: A fixed or detachable magazine, box, drum, feed strip or similar device capable of accepting, or that can be

readily converted to accept, more than 10 rounds of ammunition or more than five shotgun shells; or (a large capacity ammunition feeding device as defined in the federal Public Safety and Recreational Firearms Use Protection Act, 18 U.S.C. section 921(a)(31) as appearing in such section on Sept. 13, 1994.

Large capacity weapon: Any firearm, rifle or shotgun: (i) that is semi-automatic with a fixed large capacity feeding device; (ii) that is semi-automatic and capable of accepting, or readily modifiable to accept, any detachable large capacity feeding device; (iii) that employs a rotating cylinder capable of accepting more than 10 rounds of ammunition in a rifle or firearm and more than five shotgun shells in the case of a shotgun or firearm; or (iv) that is an assault weapon.

Machine gun: A weapon of any description, by whatever name known, loaded or unloaded, from which a number of shots or bullets may

be rapidly or automatically discharged by one continuous activation of the trigger, including a submachine gun.

Rifle: A weapon having a rifled bore with a barrel length equal to or greater than 16 inches and capable of discharging a shot or bullet for each pull of the trigger.

Semiautomatic: Capable of utilizing a portion of the energy of a firing cartridge to extract the fired cartridge case and chamber the next round, and requiring a separate pull of the trigger to fire each cartridge.

Shotgun: A weapon having a smooth bore with a barrel length equal to or greater than 18 inches with an overall length equal to or greater than 26 inches, and capable of discharging a shot or bullet for each pull of the trigger.

Source: Massachusetts General Law Chapter 140 Section 121, and the Firearms Records Bureau

SPECIAL REPORT: GUN OWNERSHIP

Police chiefs have discretion on issuing licenses

By Henry Schwan
hschwan@wickedlocal.com

Police chiefs in Massachusetts are allowed use their judgment when deciding to issue a gun license, and it's that suitability standard in the law that some have criticized.

"The biggest concern I have about the suitability standard is the lack of guidance the applicant can understand," Jason Guida said.

Guida, the former director of the Massachusetts Firearms Records Bureau who has also served as counsel to the Firearms Licensing Review Board, isn't the only Massachusetts attorney who has a problem with the suitability standard in Massachusetts law. Beyond legal disqualifiers such as drug, domestic violence and weapons convictions, Massachusetts police chiefs are legally authorized to use their discretion when deciding whether or not to issue a gun license.

"Nine out of 10 police chiefs are reasonable," said Edward George, counsel to the Gun Owners' Action League of Massachusetts (GOAL), the state affiliate of the National Rifle Association and a practicing attorney for more than 40 years. "However, some chiefs are out of control. They lack common sense (when making decisions about who gets a license)."

Massachusetts General Law 140, Section 131, sets conditions and restrictions on a license to carry firearms, and states, in part, "The licensing authority may deny the application or renewal of a license to carry, or suspend or revoke a license issued under this section if, in a reasonable exercise of discretion, the licensing authority determines that the applicant or licensee is unsuitable to be issued or to continue to hold a license to carry."

Cohasset Police Chief William Quigley said that his department uses the reasonableness standard coupled with commonsense and experience. When residents come to the police station seeking a license to carry a firearm, his licensing staff interviews the applicant to determine need versus want.

"If there is a need, 99 percent of the time I will authorize a full Class A LTC. If it's a want, the applicant will generally be issued a permit that allows them to possess a firearm, just not carry it concealed and with a high-capacity magazine. I think that's a good balance and our procedures have served us well so far."

"A tremendous amount of authority is placed with the chief of police as the licensing authority in each community," Hanover Police Chief Walter Sweeney said. "The chief has to consider someone's suitability to have a firearms permit as well as any criminal or lack of a criminal record, which may affect the determination."

For instance Sweeney said he considers a person's past behavior in addition to criminal records when making the decision to issue a license.

"I think there is no one in the community better suited to make the determination whether someone would be a responsible and safe gun owner," Sweeney said.

Marshfield Police Chief Phil Tavares agreed.

"In my opinion, the local police—specifically the chief of police, that would have all the information available—is the best person to determine who should be carrying a license to carry a firearm in their community," he said.

For example, an individual seeking a license may have a clean criminal history, but the local chief may

"In my opinion, the local police—specifically the chief of police, that would have all the information available—is the best person to determine who should be carrying a license to carry a firearm in their community."

Marshfield Police Chief Phil Tavares

know he or she has a history of anger, or of attempting suicide, or of abusive behavior toward a spouse or family member that never resulted in charges, Tavares explained.

"We know the people in our community better than an independent third party on the outside," Tavares said.

When local chiefs set too strict a standard, it can actually threaten local control, Tavares added.

If too many otherwise qualified applicants are turned away due to arbitrary local standards, he said it could create a public uproar leading the state to take over firearms licensing altogether.

That would be a problem, as local chiefs have information that a state agency would not, Tavares said.

The crux of the legal discretionary standard available to police chiefs, is language that states a determination of unsuitability is to be based on "reliable and credible information that the applicant or licensee has exhibited or engaged in behavior that suggests that, if issued a license, the applicant or licensee may create a risk to public safety; or existing factors that suggest that, if issued a license, the applicant or licensee may create a risk to public safety."

Guida believes the law creates confusion, because police chiefs are not operating under the same guidelines.

"There is a different standard across town lines," Guida said.

Wayne Sampson, executive director of the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association, said the law gives licensing authority to individual communities because "chiefs, especially in smaller communities, have better knowledge of the individual applicants," adding that a local police department has records beyond criminal convictions that could call into question the suitability of a candidate for a gun license.

Sampson said his association recognizes that some chiefs set a higher standard.

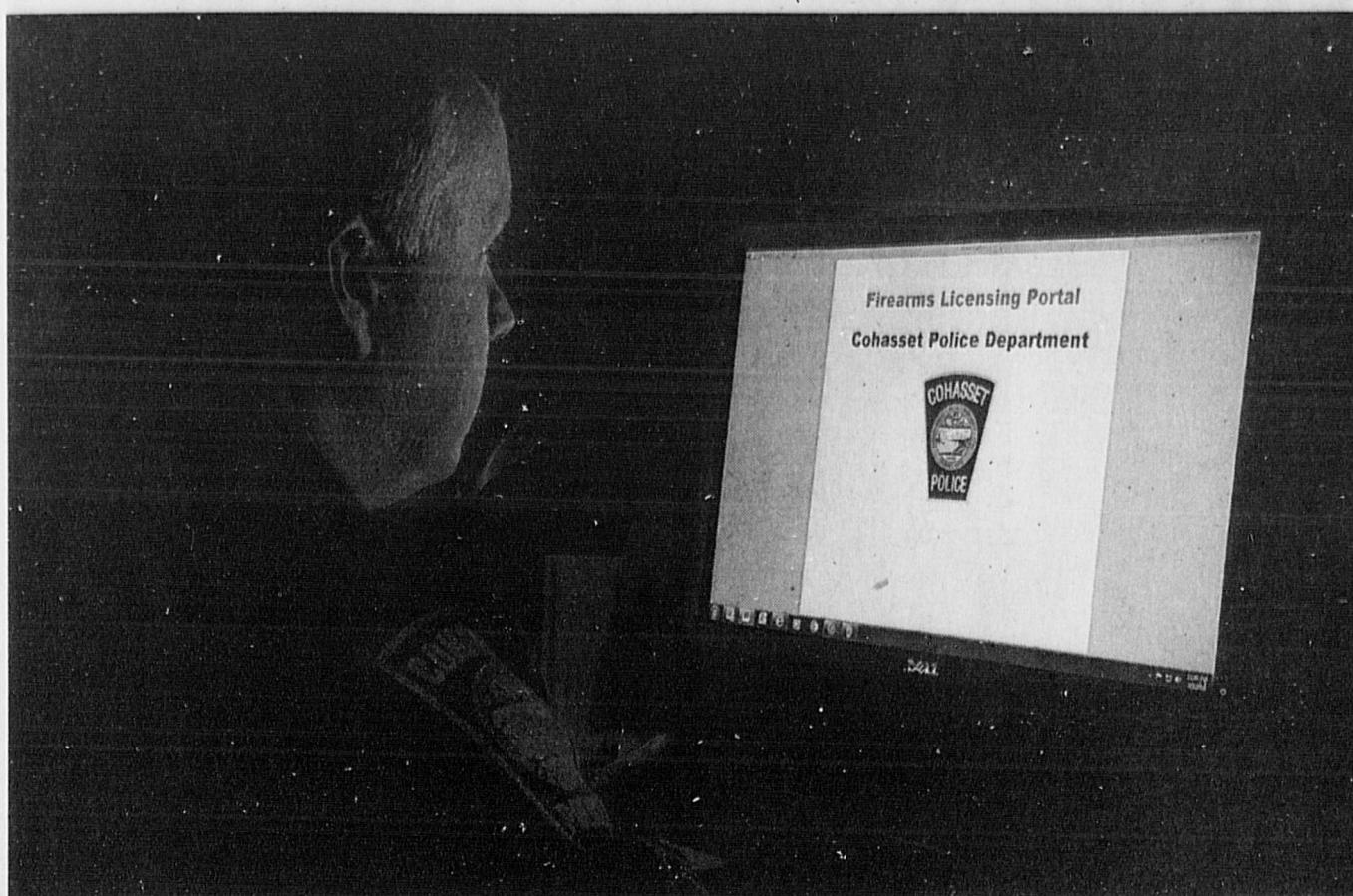
"We recognize the problem, and we're working with chiefs across the state to maintain a continual process," he said.

According to Sampson, the problem is turnover in the ranks. Sampson said 50 chiefs, or their designated licensing officials, retire or leave police departments annually, creating a revolving door of staff that constantly requires training in the complexities of issuing a gun license.

Even if the job of licensing was turned over to the Massachusetts State Police, Sampson said the problem would not go away because of constant staffing changes.

The application process

There are several steps before an applicant can get a gun license in Massachusetts: an application run through the Massachusetts Instant Record Check System; an interview with the chief or a designated firearms licensing official; a digital photograph; fingerprints for new applicants; submission of the



Cohasset Police Sergeant Jeffrey Treanor, the department's licensing officer, processes firearms permits at one of the department computer terminals. PHOTO/COURTESY OF COHASSET POLICE

applicant's information to controlled substances, and

concerned with, and you've



The Hingham Police Department hands out these safety locks free of charge for those issued licenses. The Project Childsafe lock would prevent most small children from using a weapon and can be adapted depending on the size of the firearm. Hingham Police Chief Glen Olssen strongly recommends much stronger precautions. WICKED LOCAL STAFF PHOTO/ALYSSA STONE

the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health; state and national criminal background checks; fingerprints submitted to Massachusetts State Police for state and national fingerprint-based criminal background record checks; and a licensing official reviewing the criminal background checks and mental health check for eligibility and suitability.

The application is either approved or denied by the police chief or the police department's designated licensing officer, and denials can lead to an appeal to the district court where the application was filed or the license was issued.

Sweeney said there have been times when he has denied an application based on past behavior but noted residents have the ability to appeal a denial in district court.

Tavares said the appeal process can be costly in terms of actual cost and of time, as someone from the department has to be in court for the hearing.

Types of licenses

There are two types of gun licenses in Massachusetts. A License to Carry (LTC) includes all large- and non-large-capacity handguns, rifles, shotguns and feeding devices, as well as ammunition. This is the only license that allows the carrying of concealed handguns, either loaded or unloaded. The other license is a Federal Identification (FID) card that covers non-large-capacity rifles, shotguns and ammunition.

Denial of both types of licenses can lead to a hearing in district court, and in the case of an FID card, the burden of proof falls on the police chief to show that the applicant "may create a risk to public safety."

Those denied a license because of a misdemeanor conviction can appeal to the Massachusetts Firearm Licensing Review Board (FLRB), but there are no appeals for convictions for assault and battery, weapons or ammunition and

the board may not review a petition until five years have passed since conviction. Unlike appeals in district court, the burden of proof is on the applicant to show suitability for a LTC or FID card.

According to the Massachusetts Department of Criminal Justice Information Services, nearly 60 percent of the denials before the licensing review board have been overturned. Since its inception in 2004, the FLRB has reviewed 509 petitions, and 308 were found suitable to have a firearms license, 90 were found unsuitable and 111 were not eligible for further review.

However, if the FLRB determines someone is a suitable candidate for a LTC or FID card, the person must reapply to the local police department for the license and a final decision.

There is a bill pending at the Massachusetts State House, sponsored by Rep. Jim Miceli, D-Wilmington, to remove local ordinances on gun licensing decisions. Supporters said the bill will remove confusion and make the job of deciding who gets a gun license easier on law enforcement.

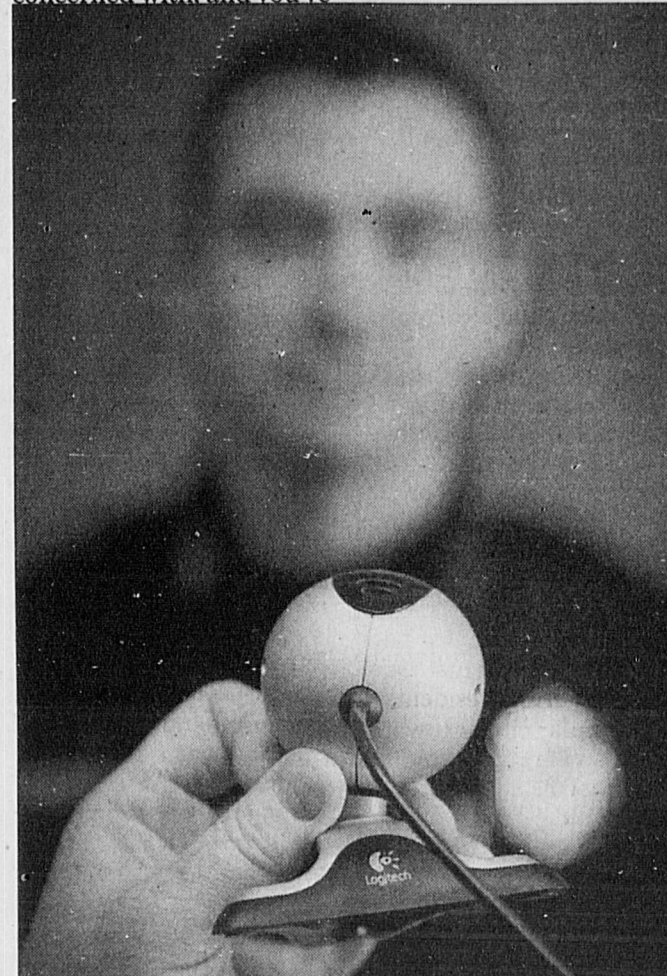
Sampson said he hasn't seen the bill's language, but thinks the general concept may have some merit.

For most police chiefs, discretion comes into play when an applicant doesn't have other disqualifying factors such as having committed crimes or involuntary mental health treatment. In those cases decisions are based on "suitability."

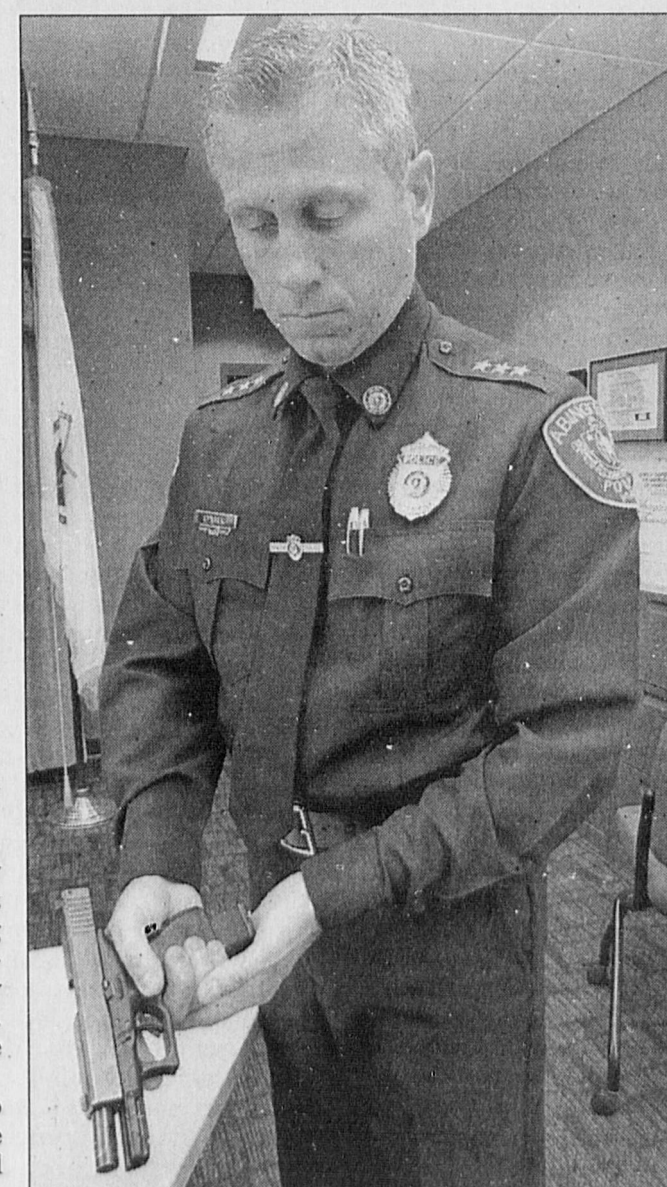
"Communities need to rely on someone to make that determination. And historically this has been successful," Sweeney said.

Tavares said his department will issue a license to those who meet the state requirements, have a clean background and won't be a danger to themselves or others.

"If you fit under the strict parameters of the laws here in Massachusetts [...] and there is nothing adverse in your background that we're



As part of the state firearms permitting process, all applicants are fingerprinted and photographed using the Massachusetts Instant Record Check (MIRC) System. Shown here, Sergeant Treanor captures a digital image of Cohasset Police Officer Derek O'Rourke, who is renewing his firearms license, which is uploaded into the state firearms database. PHOTO/COURTESY OF COHASSET POLICE



Abington Deputy Chief Chris Cutter demonstrates how to load a .40 caliber Glock, which is standard issue with officers in the department. Cutter said this particular handgun is a good one for beginner shooters. WICKED LOCAL PHOTO/SETH JACOBSON

followed everything that you need to do, including taking the safety class, and there's no information that you're going to be a danger to yourself or anyone else, we believe that you have a

right to obtain the license and we will give it to you," Tavares said.

Staff writers Mary Ford, Erin Tiernan and Hannah Sparks and Katie Lannan of State House News Service contributed to this article.

SPECIAL REPORT: GUN OWNERSHIP

State tracks sales, not owners

By Al Gentile
agentile@wickedlocal.com

As the gun control debate heats up across the nation, and within communities including Lexington and Lowell, where new local regulations have been proposed, Massachusetts residents may never know how many residents would be affected by any proposal on gun ownership. That's because Massachusetts does not keep a database of guns registered in the state.

In Massachusetts, a state known for its gun control policies, state officials have stayed away from tracking gun ownership and instead have focused on sales.

"We do not have a form which says, 'This is the current owner of the gun,'" said Michaela Dunne, manager of law enforcement and justice services for the state Department of Criminal Justice Information Services (DCJIS). "Our database is transactional. It's not the type of database where you can go in and say, 'This is who owns this firearm right now.'"

Massachusetts law requires a registration form called an FA-10 be generated by a seller and sent to a state department database each time a weapon is purchased.

In denying a public records request for the number of firearms registered to the residents of Lexington, and the breakdown of the classifications of those guns, Agapi Koulouris, general counsel for DCJIS, wrote that the department does not have records of firearms registered to current residents of a particular city or town. It does have transaction data for firearms sold or transferred under Massachusetts laws related to licensing, Koulouris said.

Koulouris also wrote that the department could provide statistics on the number of firearms transferred by a licensed Massachusetts firearms dealer and purchased by Lexington residents between 2006 and the present.

"Please note, however, that this data set does not reflect individuals who have since moved from Lexington, MA and/or no longer possesses the firearm purchased (i.e., the firearm could have since been sold or transferred to another owner)," Koulouris stated.

"In a perfect world, every gun would have a background check, and there would be a record of that," said John Rosenthal, the founder and spokesman for Stop Handgun Violence. "There would be a registration for firearms, and you could trace every firearm like you could a car. They're made to kill; cars are not."

The Registry of Motor Vehicles requires a vehicle to be registered annually and an existing registration is invalidated when a new registration is issued. Weapons registrations do not expire, however, and a new registration does not nullify the previous one.

Ron Glidden, chairman of the Gun Control Advisory Committee, said registration practices allow for many gun transactions to go under the radar.

"If I take my Massachusetts guns and I either move to another state, or just go visit another state, I can just go sell them to the dealer," said Glidden, who was a police chief in Lee. "It's not going to show up in Massachusetts; they think I still have those guns. It's going to show you own those guns whether you sold them legally or not."

Even for sales in Massachusetts, Glidden said, law enforcement essentially deals with records which can never be updated.

"In a perfect world, every gun would have a background check, and there would be a record of that. There would be a registration for firearms, and you could trace every firearm like you could a car. They're made to kill; cars are not."

John Rosenthal, the founder and spokesman for Stop Handgun Violence

"Even if you sold them in Massachusetts through a lawful private sale or a dealer, in my experience it still shows that you own them," Glidden said. "If the police department does an online search for what you own, it's going to show you own those guns whether you sold them legally or not."

Tracking a gun

Law enforcement officials say this issue becomes a problem if a gun is used in a crime or if a gun is stolen and then in either case recovered by police.

"When we have a case where we're trying to trace a gun back, very often we find these guns were passed, sold or transferred years ago and there's no history and no way to tracking it back," said Wayne Sampson, chairman of the Massachusetts Police Chiefs Association.

Sampson said, while illegal, many transfers of weapons go completely unregistered.

"The problem is really the vast number of unrecorded firearms that are out there," Sampson said. "In this type of system, there's a lot of side deals and private transactions that are just never recorded, or there are a lot of intervening facts where guns are just handed off and transferred, and the information the state has is not current."

Dunne said it is the seller's responsibility to provide the correct information, including the identification of the purchaser, on the forms. A seller is required to validate information on a gun license using the Massachusetts Gun Transaction Portal. The only time a sale is stopped is either if a background check comes back with negative results, or if the buyer's license is revoked or expired, said Koulouris.

"There is a possibility that someone could have a different address on a license as opposed to an FA-10," Dunne said. "What the FA-10 is going to show is the most recent address in the system."

Sampson said a central registration system for weapons would benefit law enforcement greatly, but



Guns seized by the Medway Police. WICKED LOCAL PHOTO/DAN HOLMES

political forces and public perception of firearms legislation results in distrust for government and law enforcement.

"Massachusetts is a fairly liberal state, obviously, but gun owners and advocates have a very strong lobby in the Legislature," Sampson said. "They would probably fight that tooth and nail."

Rosenthal, who advocated for increased controls that were included in the 1998 Massachusetts Gun Control Act, the 2004 revisions to the Gun Control Act and the 2014 overhaul of state gun laws, said the lack of oversight and the loopholes are a direct effect of gun lobbyists.

Though the bill garnered support both from Rosenthal's organization and the Gun Owners Action League, a gun-rights advocacy group, Rosenthal said the gun control debate is characterized by mistrust.

"In the absence of a national registry of gun buyers, each state has its own rules and regulations," Rosenthal said. "Law enforcement has been considered by Congress as the enemy of gun rights. The National Rifle Association has convinced Congress they can't be trusted."

Both Rosenthal and state Rep. Garrett Bradley, D-Hingham, a co-sponsor of the 2014 legislation, said incorporating a centralized, active registry for weapons was not part of the conversation.

"I don't recall the House or the Senate taking up an amendment with the last bill that had to do with a statewide registry," Bradley said.

Bradley, who does not have a stance on creating a central registration of firearms, has heard multiple arguments.

"There have been

arguments that it's helpful for law enforcement because they'll know if a person they pull over is carrying a firearm," Bradley said. "The other side is that if the list somehow became public, people could have their homes broken into for the firearm."

An owner of a firearm is legally required to update license information, including name, phone number and address, but the owner is never required to update a registration.

"Quite frankly, the entire system is a mess," said Jim Wallace, executive director of the Gun Owners Action League. "The system is designed to register and watch the good guys, but not designed to watch the bad guys."

Wallace said the concept of a central registry surfaces from time to time.

"It's been proposed here over the years, but everybody pretty much looks at it and says, 'Why?'" Wallace said. "It's a lack of money. You'll never be able to get that information."

Lars Dalseide, the media manager for the National Rifle Association, stated such a system would be ineffective regardless.

"What is the purpose of a gun registry if criminals aren't going to register their guns in the first place? Law-abiding gun owners aren't (by definition) going to break the law and will report any thefts to the authorities. Unless the state hopes to use that list as guideline for enforcing future bans or confiscation, there is no valid reason," Dalseide stated.

In the end, Bradley said the importance of a central registration lies only in numbers.

"I don't think the issue is how many people have firearms, it's who has them,"



State Police seized these guns in Brockton. STATE POLICE PHOTO

Where do guns used in crimes come from?

By Gerry Tuoti
gtuoti@wickedlocal.com

When Massachusetts criminals and firearms traffickers are looking for guns, the data shows they often head north.

"It's definitely a well-known phenomenon that guns are trafficked into states with strong guns laws from states with weak gun laws," said Allison Anderman, staff attorney with the Law Center to Prevent Handgun Violence. "It's known as the iron pipeline. New Hampshire and Maine have significantly weaker laws than Massachusetts."

More than half the guns police seize in Massachusetts and are able trace were purchased in other states, according to the ATF. New Hampshire and Maine are the biggest out-of-state sources.

In 2014, the most recent year for which data is available, law enforcement agents were able to trace the origins of 979 guns that were used in crimes in Massachusetts. Guns from New Hampshire and Maine accounted for more than 21 percent. There were 121 guns traced to New Hampshire, and 85 traced to Maine.

Slightly more than 40 percent of the seized and traced guns were bought from vendors in Massachusetts.

While gun ownership laws in Massachusetts are often considered to be among the strictest in the nation, the laws in some neighboring states are very different.

In Massachusetts, prospective gun buyers are required to obtain a state license through their local police department. As part of the licensing process, they undergo a background check.

"In order to be a gun owner in Massachusetts, you have to have a license or a firearms identification card," said Zoe Grover, executive director of the Newton-based nonprofit Stop Handgun

Top sources of crime guns in Massachusetts

Source	Number of crime guns recovered in Mass.
Mass.	402
N.H.	121
Maine	85
Ga.	49
Fla.	46
Va.	31
Vt.	25
Penn.	24
Conn.	20
N.C.	18
R.I.	16
Ala.	15
S.C.	14
Ohio	12
Calif.	11

SOURCE: ATF Firearms Tracing System, 2014

Violence. "With both of those licenses, police have discretion in issuing them."

That discretion means police can refuse to issue a gun license to someone who wouldn't be automatically disqualified through a criminal background check.

"If the police see they've been to your house 15 times for domestic violence, but you haven't been arrested, they're not going to issue you a license," Grover said.

New Hampshire and Maine don't have a comparable licensing system.

While federal law requires buyers at all federally licensed gun shops to undergo federal background checks for prior felonies or a history of severe mental illness, that's not the case for private sales.

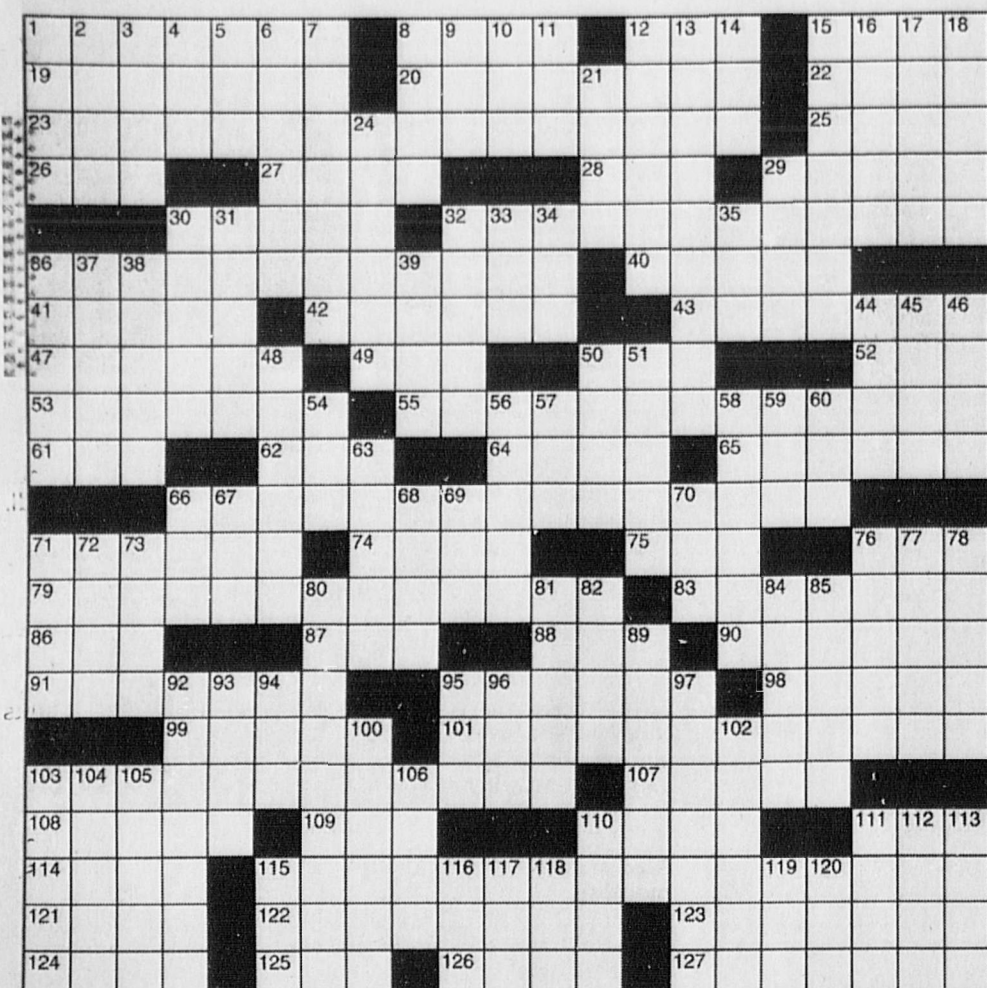
"In New Hampshire and Maine, neither state has laws or a permitting system that require someone buying a gun from a private seller to be subject to a background check," Anderman said. "If you're in New Hampshire or Maine, you can buy a gun no questions asked from a private seller ... It's easy for people who want to traffic guns to get their hands on guns in those states."



Guns seized by the Medway Police. WICKED LOCAL PHOTO/DAN HOLMES

PUZZLES

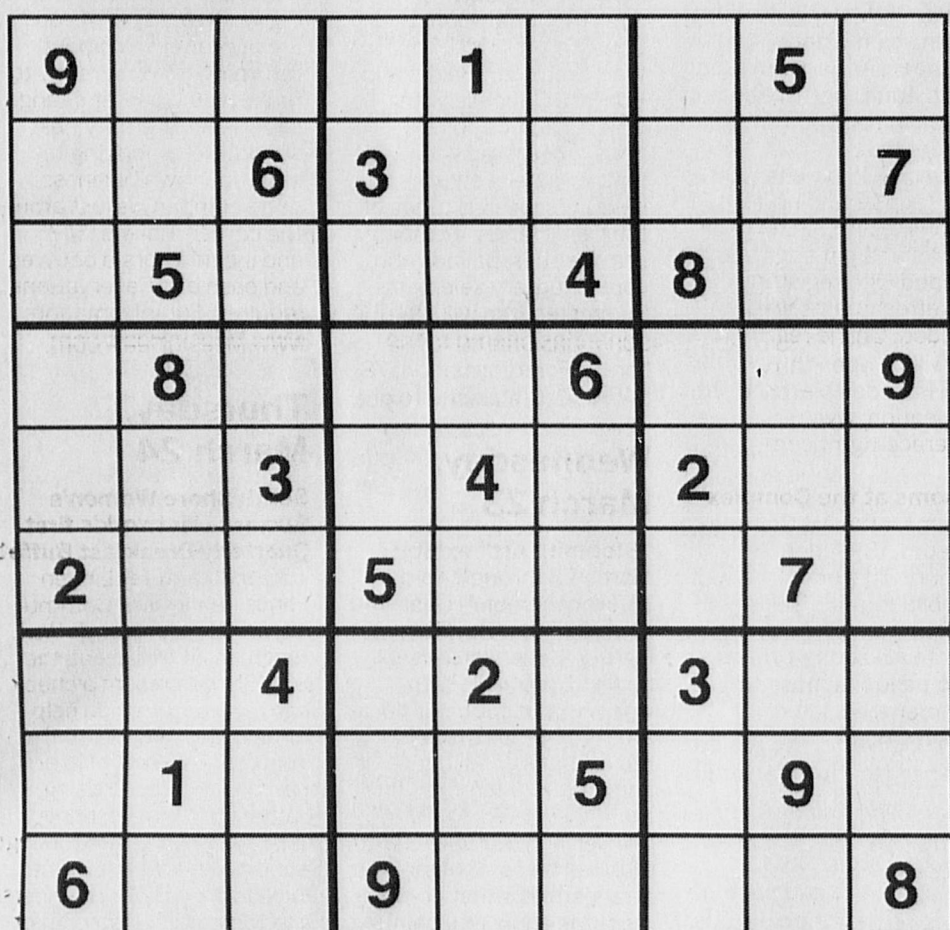
Crossword • A DOZEN TO CHOOSE FROM



- ACROSS**
- 1 Stinging box jellyfish
8 Salvador of surrealism
12 NFL three-pointers: Abbr.
15 Seal off
19 Satellite, to its planet
20 Envoy
22 Course
23 Jack-o'-lantern
25 One gazing
26 Ending of sugars
27 A deadly sin
28 Wiggly fish
29 Mother, in Madrid
30 Snow house
32 1986 #1 hit for Whitney Houston
36 Colonel on "Hogan's Heroes"
40 See 52-Across
41 Tibetan or Thai
42 Weighted fishing nets
43 How butter is often eaten
47 Gave gas to in a garage
49 Start to fall
50 ER lifesaver
52 With 40-Across, 1960s fad dance
53 Christmas star's place
55 7/21/69 New York Times headline
61 Strong desire
62 Say "I do" to Anna
64 Having a sleek design
65 Snatched
66 1978 Maya Angelou poem
71 Shot — (ice hockey statistic)
74 Not of the clergy
75 Bit of Aspen gear
76 Feedback bit
79 Y2K
83 Nosy comic
86 Sebastian of England
87 Kind of poem
88 Ill-lighted
90 Pestle's partner
91 Nine-item groups
95 "Fallin'" singer Keys
98 Tale twist
99 Dress fussily
101 Dessert at a tropical-themed party, maybe
103 1928 Eddie Cantor song
107 Reel drum
108 Samuel on the Supreme Court
109 Drop the ball
110 Mosque chief
111 Kick — fuss
114 Strong desire
115 It uses only the 12 letters A, E, H, I, K, L, M, N, O, P, U and W (like eight long answers in this puzzle)
121 "The Wizard of Oz" farm hand
122 Present-day Persians
123 Most lax
124 In time past, in time past
125 Hogs' home
126 Rolling — (rich)
127 Apply messily
- DOWN**
- 1 Arty NYC area
2 Lengthy reigns, say
3 Proficient
4 Wheaton of the screen
5 Volume 1 heading starter
6 "Black Beauty" author
7 First names, in France
8 Disallow
9 Fuse box unit
10 Lucy of the screen
11 Philosophy
12 Bluff one's way through
13 Decorative grating
14 Wd. in Roget's
15 Talk with
16 Franz Joseph —
17 In — surgery
18 Flung
21 Expel
22 Drawn forth
29 Light fog
30 "— no clue"
31 Playwright Jean
32 Gate joint
33 A single
34 Month divs.
35 Jeremy of basketball
36 Like toads
37 River to the Rhone
38 Pep (up)
39 Neeson of "Taken"
44 All-inclusive
45 Brogan, e.g.
46 Be inclined
48 Thrive
50 Track leg-end Lewis
51 Rototills, e.g.
54 Hogs' home
56 Country/ folk singer
57 "Aren't — pair?!"
58 Densest stable element
59 Tchr.'s org.
60 Hour div.
63 Portioned
66 Toy dog breed, briefly
67 "Bali" —
68 Shaggy locks
69 German "a"
70 Didn't nix
71 In time past
72 Sign gas
73 Stefani of pop music
76 At the ready
77 Early arcade biggie
78 Laconic
80 Despair
81 City near Venice
82 Prey for owls
84 Rich kid in "Nancy"
85 Israel's Sharon
89 Noxious vapor
92 Sobriquet
93 Tuscan river
94 Dawn beads
95 Tablet buy
96 — in wait
97 Horrific
100 Oslo's land
102 Item for a cheerleader
103 Corn, to Brits
104 Amend
105 Boots
106 Algerian city
110 Tech sch.
111 Super, slangily
112 Mexican coin
113 Fax abbr.
115 That fellow's
116 20% of XV
117 Scottish "John"
118 Singer DiFranco
119 Farm tool
120 Solid — rock

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Sudoku



Level: HOO BOY!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Magic Maze • NO REVERSE

MAXVETQHOMJHFCA
DYWURLGNIPMUJPN
ROLLERCOASTERLJ
EHSFDLBYKZTXVTR
AQLOPMOYCUAOKIH
MSEFDMDPHIOBRZY
SKDWAIUCETBVOYT
RIDGVQAJTRLOCNL
KIIIRHAIFIDKCA
ZNNXAWTVUKAFESR
GGGPREDNALSQTON

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally

Aging History Sailboat Slander
Bicycle Parachute Ski jump Sledding
Dreams Rocket Skiing Tattoo
Fire pole Roller coaster Sky diving

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HOROSCOPE

Salome's Stars

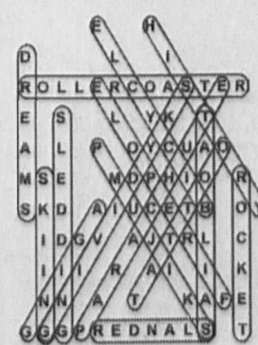
ARIES (March 21 to April 19) The week promises a calmer aspect. Although there might be some lingering effects of a recent job problem, things should continue to ease up. Also expect a change in a home-based situation.
TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) If you feel uneasy about a colleague's suggestion, it might be that your wise inner faurean guide is alerting you to a potential problem. Stepping away could turn out to be the right thing to do.
GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) A family get-together opens up new opportunities for renewing ties. It can be especially effective in dealing with disagreements that should have been, but never were, fully resolved.
CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You might be surprised at the response you get to a recent decision. You might be even more surprised by the reasons behind it. In any event, you'll learn something important.
LEO (July 23 to August 22) Your aspects favor resolving any tensions

left over from a recent incident. You might want to consider having a "clear the air" talk as soon as you can. A call can lead to a change of plans.
VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Avoid repeating yourself. If your first few efforts fail to connect, maybe it's because you haven't found the right way to get your message across. Try changing your approach.
LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Good intentions plus a strong resolve to succeed can take you where you want to go. Don't give up just because someone suggests you might be pursuing an impossible cause.
SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) An unexpected setback can be a blessing in disguise. Use it to recheck your facts and how you've presented them. Meanwhile, look for ways to expand your contacts.
SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) You should finally be seeing a positive change in a recent personal situation. However, an on-

the-job matter might need more attention than you realized. Stay with it.
CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) While you should be close to completing an important matter, you still need to focus on being focused. But things ease up in time for weekend fun with family and friends.
AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) A certain matter might take an unexpected turn. Don't simply accept it; ask for an explanation. What you learn might be helpful in shifting the situation around to your benefit.
PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Projecting a positive attitude helps restore calm even when you're confronting some pretty stormy situations. Stay the course. The outcome will be well worth your efforts.
BORN THIS WEEK: While you enjoy tradition and stability, you also appreciate the good things that change can bring.

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SOLUTIONS



9	3	2	7	1	8	6	5	4
8	4	6	3	5	2	9	1	7
1	5	7	6	9	4	8	2	3
4	8	1	2	7	6	5	3	9
5	7	3	1	4	9	2	8	6
2	6	9	5	8	3	4	7	1
7	9	4	8	2	1	3	6	5
3	1	8	4	6	5	7	9	2
6	2	5	9	3	7	1	4	8

CALENDAR

HOW TO SUBMIT

Event information can be input online by following the directions at the bottom of this page, sent by email to salendar@wickedlocal.com or sent by fax to 781-837-4543. Listings must be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event. Photos should be a jpeg with a resolution of at least 200 dpi and no smaller than 3X5 inches in size. For more information call 508-591-6623.

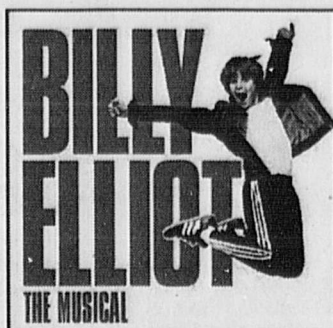
'Billy Elliot' opens March 18 at The Company Theatre

WHEN: 8 p.m. Friday, March 18

WHAT: "Billy Elliot the Musical" will be presented at the Company Theatre in Norwell

INFO: "Billy Elliot the Musical" will be presented Thursdays through Sundays, March 18 through April 10 at the Company Theatre, 30 Accord Park Drive, Norwell. Tickets are \$39 to \$41. Matinee and evening performances are available. Jamie Mann of Connecticut (pictured), a youth member of the Actors' Equity Association, will play the role of Billy.

For information: 781-871-2787, www.companytheatre.com.



'Via Dolorosa' art exhibit opens March 21

WHEN: 4-8 p.m., Monday, March 21

WHAT: "Via Dolorosa" art exhibit at Vineyard Community Church in Kingston.

INFO: A free public art exhibit titled "Via Dolorosa - Journey to the Cross" will be on display March 21-26 at Vineyard Community Church, 8 Hilltop Ave., Kingston. The exhibit is open from 4 to 8 p.m. daily and from 9:30 a.m. to noon Saturday. Each year, new contemporary works of art are contributed by artists from around the country. Reflective in nature, the exhibit portrays the last week of Jesus' life by



stimulating the mind and heart to experience it from a fresh perspective.

For information: 781-585-4776.

'All New' display and painting demo at South Street Gallery

WHEN: 10 a.m. to noon, Saturday, March 19

WHAT: Painting demo at South Street Gallery in Hingham

INFO: The "All New" art exhibit by South Shore artist Dianne Panarelli Miller will be on display March 4-31 at South Street Gallery, 149 South St., Hingham. Featured are landscapes, seascapes, cityscapes, still-lives and portraits. Miller will offer a painting demo from 10 a.m. to noon March 19. After noon, she will also be



available to paint portrait sketches for the public. The cost for a quick oil sketch starts at \$100. Light refreshments will be served.

For information: 781-749-0430, www.southstreetgallery.com.

CALENDAR

Friday, March 18

March Movie Madness:

The Hitchcock Film Series, 2 p.m., watch a classic Hitchcock film at the Ventress Memorial Library, 15 Library Plaza, Marshfield, every Friday during the month of March. Free event, no tickets required. Free popcorn and lemonade will be provided. Contact Rachel at the Reference Desk if you have any questions. Today: "Dial M for Murder." March 25: "Psycho." For information: 781-834-5535, rbreen@ocln.org.

Ramshackle Entertainment to perform at Church Hill Coffeehouse:

7:30 to 9 p.m., Church Hill United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 11 Church St., Norwell. The Church Hill Coffeehouse is a monthly event featuring local entertainers. Desserts and coffee available. The event is held in the Fellowship Center of the Church. For information: 781-826-4763; chumcnorwell.com.

The Dredsox Band: 8 p.m., at Next Page Cafe, 550 Broad St., Weymouth. For information: 781-340-1300, thenextpagecafe.com.

The Bay Players will perform the play "Proof": 8 p.m. March 18-19 and 25-26 at The First Parish Church, 842 Tremont St., Duxbury. To reserve tickets, send an email to: tickets@bayplayers.org or call. \$20 general admission; \$15 group ticket sales (all ages, 10 or more pre-paid tickets); \$18 students/seniors (65+ for seniors/all students with a valid school ID). For information: 781-269-9885, www.bayplayers.org.

"Billy Elliot the Musical": March 18 through April 10, presented by The Company Theatre, at the Company Theatre Center for Performing Arts, 30 Accord Park Drive, Norwell. Tickets are \$39 to \$41. Matinee and evening performances are available. For information: 781-871-2787, boxoffice@companytheatre.com, www.companytheatre.com.

A's Comedy Asylum: 9 p.m. March 18, at Emerald Hall, 30 Central St., Abington. Featuring comics Paul Keenan, Annette, Mark Sherman and Tony Capobianco. Hosted by Mindi Fay. Free parking. Pizza and appetizers offered. For information: 781-843-4833.

Saturday, March 19

South Shore Hospital's Walk for Hospice:

7-10 a.m. at South Shore Plaza, Braintree. Walk, activities, entertainment and more. Brief speaking program at 9 a.m. For information: 781-624-8142, www.southshorehospital.org/walkforhospice.

Zumba-thon: 9 a.m. to noon at the Halifax Congregational Church, 503 Plymouth St., Halifax. Open to all ages. For information: 781-293-0422, susan.mahan@fmr.com.

South African Festival: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Trinity Episcopal Church, 229 Highland St., Marshfield. Enjoy music, dance and a sampling of South African foods. The Rev. Noble Scheepers, a South African native and rector at Trinity, will discuss South African culture and apartheid as he narrates slide shows. For information: 781-834-8575, <http://trinity-churchmarshfield.org>.

Maple Sugaring Celebration: 11:15 a.m., North River Wildlife Sanctuary, 2000 Main St., Marshfield. Presented by Mass Audubon South Shore Sanctuaries. Participate in outdoor stations that explore maple trees and tree tapping throughout history, try your hand at tapping a tree, and sample different grades of syrup and maple sugar with silver dollar pancakes. \$10/\$7 member adult; \$8/\$5 member child. Preregistration is required. For information: 781-837-9400, massaudubon.org/southshore.

"Blooms at the Complex": 1-4 p.m. at the Art Complex Museum, 189 Alden St., Duxbury. This popular event is a collaboration between the Community Garden Club, the Duxbury Art Association and the museum. Club members interpret the artwork exhibited in the Association's Annual Winter Juried Show with their individual floral designs. For information: 781-934-6634, ext. 12, www.artcomplex.org.

Family event: 1-3 p.m. at Roche Bros., 605 Main St., Marshfield. Take the family and hang out at Roche Bros. for the Annual Kids Club event featuring free samples of Mama Rosie's wholesome frozen pasta. Mix

104.1 will be playing music and handing out goodies and kids will have a chance to meet Kids Club costume characters. For information: 781-837-9955.

Irish music concert:

2 p.m., Ventress Memorial Library, 15 Library Plaza, Marshfield. "Native Irish Music Returns" with Eamonn Sheehan and Friends. Free and open to the public; no tickets required. Refreshments available. For information: 781-834-5535, www.ventresslibrary.org.

Local lawn expert Michael Donoghue: 2-4 p.m., Hingham Public Library, 66 Leavitt St., Hingham. He will discuss ways to safely and effectively maintain your lawn using organic methods. This event is open to the public and no registration is required. For information: 781-741-1405, www.hinghamlibrary.org.

Casino Night:

7-11 p.m., Pembroke Titans Against Drugs will hold its fundraiser at Pembroke Country Club, 94 West Elm St., Pembroke. Help raise money for its efforts of bringing substance abuse prevention education to the schools and community. Fun, mingling and games for a great cause. Games will be played with money chips and not for cash. Prizes awarded to top three players. Purchase tickets and/or sponsorship online at odds-2.eventbrite.com or by emailing Pembrokeketad@gmail.com.

Cabaret au Chocolat:

7-9:30 p.m., parish hall of St. Mary of the Nativity Church, 1 Kent St., Scituate. Presented by the Choral Art Society of the South Shore, featuring the SOS Big Band of Rhode Island Chocolate, wine and other refreshments and great live music. Bid in the silent auction, featuring tickets, items from local businesses, themed gift baskets, and many other surprises, from cooking to art to travel. Tickets are \$25 in advance \$30 at the door. For information: 781-500-0021, www.choralartsociety.org.

Joe Donnelly Band featuring Jimmy Gambino: 8 p.m., Next Page Cafe, 550 Broad St., Weymouth. For information: 781-340-1300, thenextpagecafe.com.

Coffeehouse off the Square: 8 p.m., Old Ship Parish House, 107 Main St., Hingham, featuring Martin

Butler and Katie McDonnell. Open mike from 8 to 8:30. Admission is \$15, beverages and desserts are \$1 and the event benefits the Unitarian-Universalist Service Committee. For information: 781-749-1767, www.oldschurphchurch.org/coffeehouse-off-the-square.html.

Sunday, March 20

5K Road Race/Walk:

9 a.m., Silver Lake Regional High School, 260 Pembroke St., Kingston. This is the inaugural "Moving Heels for Meas on Wheels" Old Colony Elder Services race event. Adult registration is \$25 online or \$30 on-site; student (age 11-18) \$20 online or \$25 on-site; and child (age 10 and under) \$15 online and \$20 on-site. T-shirts and gift bags are included with registration and refreshments will be provided. Online registration will be open through the end of the day March 18. For information: www.southshoraceracemgmt.com.

"Blooms at the Complex":

1-4 p.m. at the Art Complex Museum, 189 Alden St., Duxbury. This popular event is a collaboration between the Community Garden Club, the Duxbury Art Association and the museum. Club members interpret the artwork exhibited in the Association's Annual Winter Juried Show with their individual floral designs. For information: 781-934-6634, ext. 12, www.artcomplex.org.

Monday, March 21

"Via Dolorosa" exhibit: 4-8 p.m., Vineyard Community Church, 8 Hilltop Ave., Kingston. Free public art exhibit titled "Via Dolorosa - Journey to the Cross," March 21-26. Each year, new contemporary works of art are contributed by artists from around the country. Reflective in nature, the exhibit portrays the last week of Jesus' life by stimulating the mind and heart to experience it from a fresh perspective. The free exhibit is open from 4 to 8 p.m. daily and from 9:30 a.m. to noon Saturday. Special viewings can be arranged ahead by calling the church office: 781-585-4776.

Tuesday, March 22

Sign up for South Shore Youth Adventure Rowing Spring Season: Tuesdays and Thursdays, March 22 - May 26 at Windmill Point Boathouse, 185 Main Street, Hull. \$175 per student. Every day participants can choose a different island or shoreline to explore, a different boat to row, a new way to know their friends. Signups are now underway for high school age students for Hull Lifesaving Museum's co-ed South Shore Youth

Adventure Rowing program. No experience is needed. For information: 781-925-5433, info@hulllifesavingmuseum.org.

Ales and Tales book group meeting:

7 p.m. at Cask 'n Flagon, 804 Plain St., Marshfield. Book to discuss is "The Winter People" by Carol Rifka Brunt. Patrons responsible for purchase of their own drinks and food. Pick up a copy of the book at the Ventress Public Library. For information: 781-834-5535, www.ventresslibrary.org.

Friends in Song:

7 p.m., First Trinitarian Congregational Church, 381 Country Way, Scituate. "Banks and Braes: A Cappella in the Celtic Tradition" offers light concert repertoire featuring beloved and newly discovered tunes of the Celtic lands, including sea shanties, ballads and contemporary selections. Suggested free will offering, donations offered to the library. For information: 781-545-5300, ftccscituate.org.

Wednesday, March 23

"Bloomin' Art" exhibit:

March 23 through April 10, Front Street Art Gallery, 124 Front St., Scituate Harbor. Gallery artists will be filling the walls with works that inspire our floral artists whether they are tablescapes, landscapes or floral works. Members of the Hanover, North River, Norwell and Scituate Garden Club will be composing arrangements that complement the show wall painting and perhaps other works in the gallery that pique their creative juices. Their floral art will be exhibited at the opening reception from 6 to 8:30 p.m. April 1. For information: 781-545-6150, www.frontstartgallery.com.

"Being Mortal" screening:

1 p.m., Robert J. Nyman Rockland Senior Center, 317 Plain St., Rockland. Presented by Beacon Hospice, in collaboration with the Rockland Council on Aging. The PBS documentary "Being Mortal" follows the renowned New Yorker writer and Boston surgeon Dr. Atul Gawande as he explores the relationships doctors have with patients who are nearing the end of life and how the medical profession can better help people navigate the final chapters of their lives with confidence, direction and purpose. This program is free and is open to anyone in the community. Light refreshments will be served. To make reservation: 781-871-1266.

Downsizing and de-cluttering:

3-5 p.m., Hingham Public Library, 66 Leavitt St., Hingham. Natalie Ahern, a senior moving specialist and owner of All the Right Moves, Boston; and Esther Healey, a certified age in place specialist and owner of My Home is My Choice will

discuss ways for older adults to de-clutter a home for health and safety purposes and how to donate, sell, or gift belongings. They will offer two slide presentation and will welcome questions. For information: 781-741-1405, www.hinghamlibrary.org.

Second Chapter Sisterhood networking event:

7 p.m. Quarry Restaurant & Lounge, 415 Whiting St., Hingham. Presented by Miles in Heels Productions. Featured speaker, Linda Rosetti, author of "Women and Transition: Reinventing Work and Life." If you are apprehensive about returning to work, ready to make a bold career change, experiencing empty nest syndrome, or longing to start your own business, good company is just around the corner. Tickets: \$125 and include hors d'oeuvres and cash bar. Reservations required. For information: www.MilesInHeels.com.

Thursday, March 24

South Shore Women's Business Network's first Quarterly Breakfast Buffet:

7:30-9:30 a.m., at Linden Ponds Retirement Community, 203 Linden Ponds Way, Hingham. At this event, the SSWBN will present a check earmarked to provide help for homeless women to the nonprofit recipient of their first quarter's fundraising, Father Bill's & Mainspring. There will also be networking opportunities at this event. Tickets are \$20 for members and \$25 for guests. For information: 781-924-5160, www.sswbn.org/events.

Paint night: 6:30 p.m., Hingham Public Library, 66 Leavitt St., Hingham. Local artist Dave Locarno will offer clear step-by-step instructions. No experience is required. With guided instruction everyone will walk away with a springtime work of art they can be proud of. All the painting supplies will be provided and light refreshments will be served. This class is limited to 20 people and the suggested materials cost is \$20. For information: 781-741-1405, ext. 1404, www.hinghamlibrary.org.

Toni Lynn Washington to perform with Willie J. Laws Band to start:

8 p.m., Next Page Café, 550 Broad St., Weymouth. Followed by open mic with Willie J. Laws. Jammers invited. Free pizza. For information: 781-340-1300, thenextpagecafe.com.

Friday, March 25

45th Good Friday Walk: 8 a.m., Plymouth River School, 200 High St., Hingham. One to 20 miles; walker's choice. Must have a minimum of \$20 pledged. Benefit for the economically poor families that live primarily in the rural south. For information: 781-843-1676, www.walkinggoodfriday.org.

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR CALENDAR EVENT

Here are some tips on getting your event information posted to the Wicked Local calendar and included in this regional calendar:

REGISTER: Find the Events Calendar on your Wicked Local homepage in the bottom right portion on the website and click on the Add Event button. Click the Register link in the top right hand corner of your calendar page, above Add Event. Enter an email address, first name, last name, password, and password confirmation. Once you click "Register," a verification email will be sent to the email address with which you registered. Be sure to confirm your account through that email to complete the process. Once registered, you will have the ability to add events.

ADD AN EVENT: Click the Add Event button. Fill in required fields such as event title, date, time, category, and venue. Events may be set up to repeat daily,

weekly, monthly, or by manually adding additional dates.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

■ The more detail the better in the event description field and there is a section to provide optional contact information.

■ Categories are important for tagging events with discoverable search terms and eases a visitor's ability to find the type of events they are looking to attend. An event can have multiple categories.

■ Events must be matched to a known venue. You can also add a new venue if your venue is not listed.

■ Events are subject to review before appearing on the site.

IMAGES: Make sure to include an image with your event. Events with images command three times the attention than those without. EvieSays uses a simple image uploader with options to drag and drop or browse, so adding images to your event is easy.

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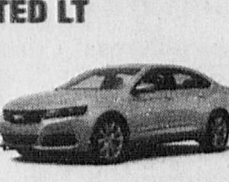


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